

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHERE COUNTRYSIDE BEGINS: Right there on the Bitbit Bridge in Norzagaray, Bulacan, a farmer feeds his goats. RUDY ESPERAS

Neri doesn't confirm, deny P200-M bribe

He also says it's DOTC which should answer concerns

By Michael Lim Ubac and Christine O. Avendaño

FORMER SOCIOECONOMIC PLANNING SECRETARY Romulo Neri yesterday refused to confirm or deny that he was offered a P200-million bribe to support the controversial national broadband network (NBN) project that Chinese telecommunications giant ZTE won.

"I don't know. I cannot talk about it right now," he told the INQUIRER, pointing out that he could not comment "on

a speculative issue."

But Neri said he would talk when properly summoned by Congress.

Earlier, in an interview yesterday morning on radio dzBB, host Arnold Clavio suggested he could have retired and gone on a cruise if he had accepted the alleged P200-million bribe, to which Neri replied: "I can't do that. It will be in my conscience and I believe in bad karma."

In the dzBB interview, Neri also said, when asked on the supposed bribery: "It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. It's difficult to prove either way."

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said he

was considering getting the testimony of Neri to support an impeachment complaint he had threatened to file against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos over Abalos' supposed role in the deal.

The National Economic and Development Authority (Neda) board, presided over by President Macapagal-Arroyo herself, approved the NBN project, Neri told the INQUIRER.

"The Neda approved the broadband

NERI DOESN'T / A4



NERI tells Arnold Clavio and Ali Sotto of "Dobol A sa Dobol B" on the alleged P200-M bribe offer. It's really difficult for me to say yes or no. Later, he tells the INQUIRER, I cannot talk about it right now. INQUIRER/PHOTO

Business, FVR, Enrile, Ermita on Erap verdict

THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL BE disappointed if Joseph Estrada is acquitted by the Sandiganbayan of plunder, a securities analyst said yesterday.

But it will also be disappointed if the ousted President is convicted and subsequently pardoned by President Macapagal-Arroyo, said Astro del Castillo, a director of the Association of Securities Analysts of the Philippines.

"It's the right opportunity to create a model to go after grafters," Del Castillo told the INQUIRER.

"Reconciliation will always be there. But we have a long list of pardoned

BUSINESS/A15

CA upholds murder raps vs Leviste

By Lella B. Salaverria

FORMER BATANGAS GOV. JOSE ANTONIO Leviste will continue to be charged with murder, with the Court of Appeals dismissing his petition questioning the reinvestigation of his case and the upgrading of the initial charge of homicide.

In a decision issued on Aug. 30, the appellate court upheld the finding of Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel

CA UPHOLDS/A5

Joma not covered by amnesty, says Esperon

By Cynthia D. Balana

SELF-EXILED COMMUNIST LEADER Jose Ma. Sison may not be covered by an amnesty proclamation for communist rebels which Malacañang will issue soon, according to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen.



FOR HOME, COUNTRY AND BABY, TOO: Ensign Jeffrey Legaspi of the Philippine Navy plants a farewell kiss on his only child, Genesis Matthew, before departing for Basilan with the other members of the 1st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion and the 355th Aviation Engineering Wing of the Philippine Air Force to carry out the humanitarian offensive ordered by President Arroyo. REN ZAMORA

GMA set to have 20-minute meeting with Bush tomorrow

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo will have a 20-minute meeting with US President George W. Bush tomorrow on the sidelines of the Apec summit this weekend that is expected to set directions for climate change, human security and trade.

Ms Arroyo is expected to arrive here at 9 p.m. today to join the 20 other

leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The Bush-Arroyo meeting will take place at the Intercontinental Sydney Hotel right after a lunch hosted by the US president for seven attending leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Ms Arroyo is this year's chair of the Asean.

Shortly before the Bush-Arroyo

GMA SET/A8

being tried in The Netherlands for ordering the assassination in the Philippines of his former comrades, a crime under Dutch law.

"I think he will not be covered. It's The Netherlands that is charging him with felonious acts. He may not be cov-

JOMA NOT/A9

Lomibao named to Berroya's job at LTO

By Michael Lim Ubac

ON THE EVE OF HER DEPARTURE for an Asia-Pacific summit in Sydney, President Macapagal-Arroyo has effected another round of changes in her official family.

She broadened the powers of Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera at the Department of Justice by naming her acting secretary, and kicked upstairs Land Transportation Office chief Reynaldo Berroya by designating him assistant secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, according to a Malacañang announcement.

Berroya was replaced at the LTO by another key ally of the Arroyo administration, retired Philippine National Police chief

LOMIBAO/A6

WHAT'S INSIDE

WORLD / A19

'Chemical Ali' sentenced to death by hanging

WORLD / A20

Germany, Denmark foil attacks on Frankfurt airport, US hub

SPORTS / A24

Nadal crashes out of US Open in huge upset



Protesters Down Under to show Bush bottom line

SYDNEY—A GAME GROUP OF Australian antiwar activists is planning a cheeky protest against a visit by US President George W. Bush—baring bottoms in what is hoped will be a world-record moon.

Organizer Will Saunders said the protest tomorrow was aimed at lightening the mood in Sydney, a city currently patrolled by 5,000 police and soldiers and divided by a massive steel and concrete fence ahead of the Asia-Pacific Eco-PROTESTERS/A6



PROTEST AND PROMO are joined at the anti-Iraq war picket line in Sydney now patrolled by 5,000 troops to secure the Apec heads of state led by US President Bush.

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Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Northern Luzon	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Central Luzon	Partly Cloudy
Yuguepang	Mostly Cloudy	Visayas	Partly Cloudy
Laosag	Mostly Cloudy	Mindanao	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy		
Taguig	Partly Cloudy		
Laguna	Partly Cloudy		
Calapan	Partly Cloudy		

COMPILED BY: SCHATO GUICOR, FOR RESEARCH/09/05/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Strong peso shuts down 75 firms

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE PESO'S SHARP RISE AGAINST THE UNITED STATES dollar has led to the shutdown of 75 mostly small-and-medium export enterprises, resulting in P1.5 billion in foreign exchange losses in the first half of the year, industry leaders claimed yesterday.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters' Confederation, appealed to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to reconsider its foreign exchange policy and slow down the peso's appreciation to prevent the export sector from losing its global competitiveness.

He said the estimated losses and company closures in the first semester were reported by

leaders of the food, handicrafts, furniture and garments industry which is urging that the peso be made to remain within a range of 48-50 to the US dollar "within a fixed period of time resembling export trading cycles."

"We cannot survive with the presently strong peso, especially one that rapidly appreciates or one that widely fluctuates," Ortiz-Luis said.

"The strong-peso-equals-a-strong-economy argument is only a myth...We only have to look at the export figures to know that while total export revenues are increasing, the fact is 80 percent of our exports are labor-intensive and has thus fallen victim to the appreciating peso," he said.

The peso closed at 46.64:\$1 yesterday, representing a gain of nearly 5 percent since the start of the year.

Exporters from the electronics and garments industry, the country's top two export performers, have not been spared losses as well, although they import the bulk of their raw materials, Ortiz-Luis said.

He attacked the policy of defending the peso as "jurassic,"

arguing that China has adamantly ignored global criticism and deliberately kept the yuan undervalued to be able to make its exports more attractive to overseas buyers.

"We appreciate the wisdom of allowing market forces to determine the appropriate exchange rate levels. In our current experience, however, the fluctuations have been so wide and the signals by government influence a lot of speculation such that portfolio managers and dollar traders already dictate the levels that work to their advantage," he said.

He said policy measures, short of direct intervention, are needed to prevent the speculators from taking advantage of the situation "at the expense of the bigger le-

gitimate economic contributors." BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. stressed, however, that the central bank was not biased for a strong peso.

"Our policy is a market-determined peso... Prior to this, there was continued depreciation, so how would you characterize that, a weak peso policy?" he said.

"As we have done time and again, what the BSP does is to try and smoothen the movements," he said.

He said the proposal to maintain an exchange rate band favoring the exporters was too "risky."

"The primary observation is that it will tend to produce distortions in the system...and who will shoulder the cost?" he said.

Tetangco said the central bank

would stick to its mandate of providing monetary and price stability, as a low-inflation rate regime would also benefit exporters.

"We're also doing more in terms of liberalizing the foreign exchange system," he said.

Ortiz-Luis urged the government to undertake the following: revive a dollar-denominated bourse that will be practical and attractive to investors; settle more foreign debts ahead of maturity to create demand for dollars; liberalize gold bullion trading and create a gold bullion certificate market to stabilize the exchange rate; and the Magna Carta for SMEs and the Agri-Agra Laws which mandate lending to these priority sectors, by tightening the rules on alternative compliance.

Gasoline, kerosene prices cut by 50¢

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS HAVE REDUCED gasoline and kerosene prices by 50 centavos a liter.

Petron Corp., Philipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Chevron Philippines Inc., Seaoil Philippines Inc. and Eastern Petroleum Corp. all adjusted their prices at 7 p.m. yesterday.

Flying V implemented the same price adjustments on the same products at 12:01 a.m. today.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu said the price cut was due to the reduction in the prices of gasoline and kerosene in the

world market, as the United States summer driving season comes to an end.

The regional benchmark Dubai crude fell to an August average of \$67.38 a barrel from \$69.49 a barrel in July.

World oil prices are also expected to go down some more with the change in the course of Hurricane Felix, which apparently bypassed US refineries in the Gulf of Mexico.

Premium unleaded gasoline prices fell to between P39.07 and P41.77 a liter, unleaded gasoline to between P38.05 and P41.09 a liter, to P40.30 a liter.

Survey indicates people agree on Erap's guilt, says prosecutor

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE STATE PROSECUTOR IN the P4-billion plunder case against detained former President Joseph Estrada yesterday said that if majority of Filipinos favor an amnesty for the ousted president, it only suggests that they agree to his culpability.

Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio was commenting on the latest survey results of the Social Weather Stations that showed 77 percent of Mega Manila residents were willing to forgive the former president.

"But as how we read it, these people are in favor of pardoning

Estrada because they agree that he has a liability," Villa-Ignacio told the INQUIRER.

Estrada's son San Juan City Mayor Jose Victor "JV" Ejercito, however, said the results indicated that the majority believe in his father's innocence.

But the chief magistrate of the antiracket court trying Estrada for plunder yesterday said she was oblivious to the publicity generated by survey results sympathetic to the deposed leader.

Prejudicial publicity

"We are aware there might be prejudicial publicity. This is a

very high-profile case and it's very hard to control the media," Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Teresita Leonardo de Castro said.

De Castro said she has refrained from reading newspapers and has missed reading about the results of the recent SWS survey.

"I'm sorry to say that I haven't read those news accounts," De Castro said during a budget hearing yesterday.

De Castro chairs the special division handling Estrada's case that includes associate justices Diosdado Peralta and Francisco Villarez.

The Sandiganbayan is expected to render its decision on the case in the coming days.

Villa-Ignacio noted in jest that the 90-day deadline in rendering a decision as prescribed by the Constitution falls on Sept. 13—"Erap's favorite number."

The number 13 seemed to have figured prominently in Estrada's life. He was the Philippines' 13th president and was impeached by the House of Representatives on Nov. 13, 2001. He was denied to challenge the validity of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration by the Supreme Court in a 13-0 vote.

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Hon. Jerri G. Santos - Chief of Protocol, Department of Foreign Affairs. He has a solid background in the field of protocol and has the distinction of having served five presidents of the Republic of the Philippines as protocol officer in various capacities, including having been Chief of Presidential Protocol in Malacañang. He is currently an Assistant Secretary at DFA and is among the youngest to have attained ambassadorial-level rank in the history of the DFA. He has also served on several foreign assignments including having been Minister and Consul General of the Philippine Embassy in Canada.

Assistant Secretary Santos has a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from UP. He was granted a Fulbright scholarship and went on to obtain a master's degree from the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy, Tufts University, Massachusetts, U.S.A.

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POWERBOOKS

RP now world's top labor exporter

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE PHILIPPINES IS NOW THE WORLD'S top exporter of labor, according to Labor Secretary Arturo Brion.

Brion made the statement yesterday before the House committee on appropriations to justify his department's proposed P6.2 billion budget for 2008, an P800 million increase over their current P5.4 billion allocation.

"We are now the No. 1 labor-sending country simply because Filipinos are very desired everywhere," he told congressmen. "If we are not that productive, we will not be that desired."

Brion was responding to the query of Sorsogon Rep. Salvador Escudero III on whether Filipino workers were productive.

The secretary said the demand for overseas Filipino workers was so high that there were now "more jobs than what we can provide."

He cited the case of Saudi Arabia, which had a demand for 5,000 nurses. He said the Philippines came up short by 2,000.

Over all, he said the country was sending

one million Filipino workers overseas every year or a current total of 7.9 million OFWs.

Under the budget proposal, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda), stood to get the highest increase among all agencies attached to the DOLE.

The suggestion was to increase its current budget of P2.5 billion to P3.1 billion or a difference of P642 million.

The secretary assured congressmen that "our main policy is not marketing, but the protection" of OFWs.

Many of these OFWs were nurses seeking greener pastures outside of the Philippine health system.

From 2000 to 2003, the country lost 51,850 nurses to higher paying jobs abroad, according to the Health Alliance for Democracy, a nationwide network of doctors, nurses and other health professionals.

In 2005, the group noted that around 4,000 doctors were enrolled in nursing schools, ostensibly giving up what was considered a higher position in the general health system hierarchy.

Why the look on GMA's face?

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE PHOTOGRAPHS ON THE FRONT page of the INQUIRER the other day had President Arroyo displaying expressions that seemed to range from incredulity to shock, as her executive secretary, Eduardo Ermita, held up a compact disc (CD) and murmured a few private words to her at the start of a meeting on national security the other day.

So what was that all about? Another scandal?

In a talk with reporters, Ermita shook his head and said it was only an old documentary on power politics in the United States that he was pitching to the President.

Ermita said he was surprised that the series of photographs capturing that short conversation he had with the President at the start of the National Security Council Cabinet Group meeting in Mala-

cañang last Tuesday was given so much meaning.

Ermita recalled to reporters what he told President Arroyo at that time: "Alam ninyo na 'am kung may oras kayo, papahiramin ko sa inyo eto (Ma'am, if you have time, I will lend you this tape)."

He said that the CD was actually adapted from a book written by Hendrick Smith that he read during the time of President Corason Aquino, entitled "The People and the Power Game."

The CD he presented to Ms Arroyo was titled "The Elected, the Presidency and Congress in the United States."

Ermita said he found the book of Smith to be "interesting" and with the CD, "it was very relevant to our political environment."

As to why the President made those strange expressions, Ermita could only say that the INQUIRER photographer clicked her camera quickly.

Agri land deal with China still a plan, says DAR Usec

By TJ Burgonio

NOT A SQUARE FOOT OF FARM-land has been given to Chinese investors, according to an agrarian reform official in the face of criticism over a plan to convert farms into agribusiness-type plantations to be offered to foreign investors.

Gerunio Madueño, the agrarian reform Undersecretary for support services, said the plan to turn farms into plantations producing hybrid rice or corn, would not involve the leasing of lands.

What it would entail are joint venture agreements between the

farmers and the investors, he said.

"There's a misconception that land utilization entails land lease. That's not the case here," Madueño said in a phone interview.

Leaders of peasant groups Unorka-Pilipinas and Task Force Mapalad picketed the Department of Agrarian Reform offices last week, demanding Madueño's resignation for supposedly enlisting farmlands for agri-business ventures under an agreement with China without consulting them.

"They thought the investors would take over their lands, which would be a violation of agrarian reform," Madueño said.

Madueño explained that none of the different modes of joint venture agreements, like contract-growing, production sharing, and build-operate-transfer, entail the leasing of farmlands.

He said no farmland has been identified for agri-business anywhere in the country since the Philippine-China agri-fisheries agreement was signed in January 2006.

"We're still in the planning stage. We have not offered a square foot of farmland to the Chinese," he said, explaining that the memorandum of agreement was just a framework and that no specific agreements have been approved.

Hospitals call off 'holiday'

By Beverly T. Natividad

AFTER A MEETING WITH HEALTH SECRETARY Francisco Duque, private hospitals yesterday announced they would hold off a threatened "hospital holiday" to dramatize their objections to a new law that prohibits them from detaining patients who cannot pay their bills.

The Philippine Hospitals Association of the Philippines (PHAP) said it agreed to Duque's request to hold off the boycott and give the health department a chance to address their concerns.

PHAP spokesman Dr. Rustico Jimenez said they will first exhaust all available solutions to their problems with the new law.

"We are good citizens and we want to listen to all their (Department of Health) suggestions first. We want to give them some leeway just to see what they can do

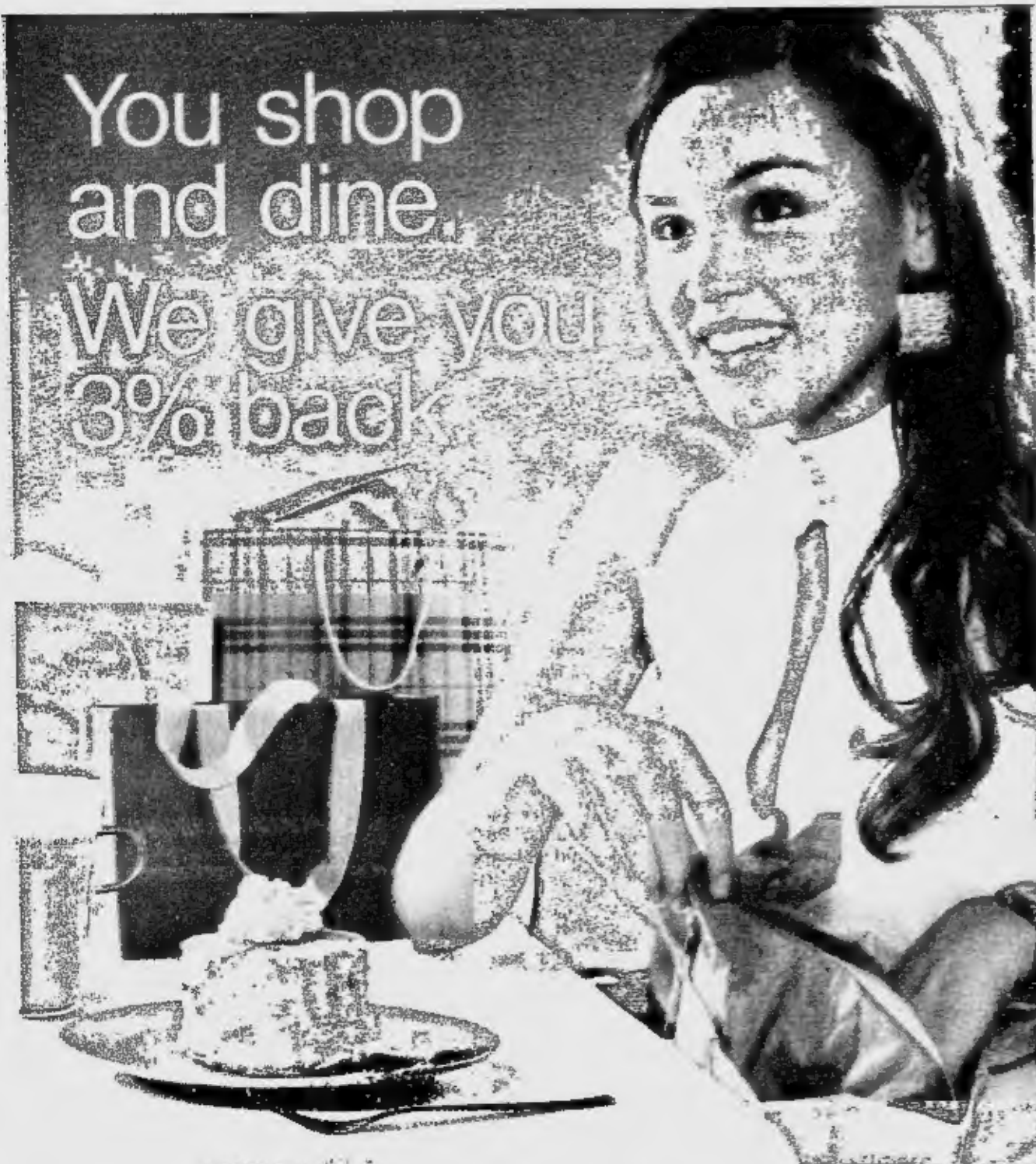
to address this," said Jimenez.

The new law (Republic Act No. 9439) provides that patients can be discharged upon signing of a promissory note covering their unpaid obligations.

Hospital owners said they want the government to tap the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) or the pork barrel (Priority Development Assistance Fund) of each congressman, for the creation of a guarantee fund in the event that promissory notes are not paid by patients.

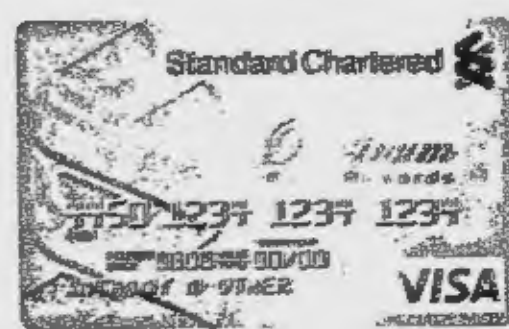
The group was planning to hold the boycott for about two days each month until 2008, unless the government repeals the law.

Jimenez said, they hope the Health department can address their objections and find a way to incorporate their proposals in the implementing rules and regulations of the new law. He said they did not promise to hold off for very long.



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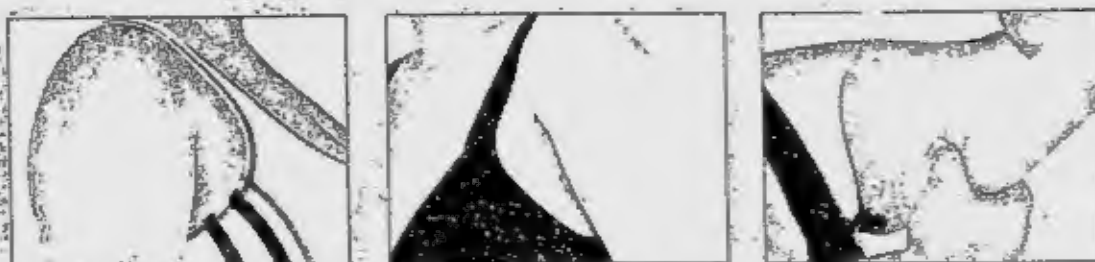
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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

Neri doesn't deny, confirm P200-M bribe offer

From page A1

project and Cyber Education Project [CEP] during the first quarter of 2007," said Neri, now the head of the Commission on Higher Education.

But Neri said Ms Arroyo did not choose the ZTE to implement the NBN project. That power was exercised by Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Neri said the Neda board only approved the "policy" of setting up broadband and cyber-education projects.

Neri said if called to a congressional probe, he would be covered by Ms Arroyo's Executive Order No. 464 requiring executive department officials to get her permission before attending a legislative inquiry.

Neri told the *INQUIRER* that he did see Chinese officials in a "meeting arranged by embassy officials." But he could not recall when it took place.

"At least once, I forgot when. I met with them, with Chinese officials."

"Wag na muna (Not now)," he said, when asked to disclose the issues discussed at the meeting.

"I clarified that this is the position of government at the time—no guarantee, no loan. It was shown in the Neda board minutes."

DOTC should answer

Asked why the deal with ZTE carried a sovereign guarantee for a loan instead of not paying even one yuan through a build-operate-transfer scheme, he said: "It's the DOTC (Department of Transportation and Communication) that should answer."

He said an "American ambassador" and losing bidders also complained to him but he told them to "go back to the DOTC," which should "address your concerns because we (Neda

Ex-lawmaker claims he has the goods on Abalos

By Norman Bordadora

A FORMER CONGRESSMAN yesterday claimed he had enough evidence to file an airtight impeachment complaint against Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. in connection with his alleged role in the \$329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal.

Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolex Suplico said he gathered evidence that Abalos had tried to bribe other bidders to back out of the NBN project.

An unnamed businessman recently told the *INQUIRER* that he witnessed Abalos offer Amsterdam Holdings Inc. executive Jose de Venecia III \$10 million for his firm to refrain from any further participation in the bidding for the project.

"My volunteer lawyers are preparing the impeachment complaints ... They told me we have a case," Suplico told reporters at a news forum yesterday.

"There is culpable violation of the Constitution, bribery, graft and corruption and betrayal of public trust,"

he said of the grounds for impeaching Abalos.

Suplico said his evidence started with Abalos' repeated admission that he had met with ZTE executives several times in the country and in Shenzhen, China.

He added that Abalos also admitted to being at the meetings among ZTE officials, Transportation and Communication Secretary Leandro Mendoza and Finance Secretary Margarito Teves.

"These are badges of participation. Have you ever wondered what he did in China during the election period?" Suplico said.

Lozano complaint

Suplico distanced himself from the impeachment complaint that lawyer Oliver Lozano would file against Abalos.

"This is separate from the complaint (of the) loose cannon. This is not a *hao hsiao* (a local journalist's colloquial for fake) complaint," he added.

Minority Leader Ronaldo Zamora said the opposition in the House would closely look at the pieces of evidence that Suplico would present.

copy of the contract was stolen.

On the same day, Trade Secretary Peter Favila signed with Chinese authorities a \$460-million deal to build a satellite-based backbone for the CEP on behalf of the Department of Education.

Both agreements were signed in Hainan, China.

Malacañang rejected calls for the cancellation of the \$329-million contract with China's

ZTE Corp. for the project.

"Definitely, there is no order to discontinue [the project] just because of the uproar," Executive Secretary Eduardo Brundis said at his weekly news conference.

Leaders in both Houses of Congress have called for the cancellation of the NBN contract, claiming that it was attended with irregularities.

Malacañang is leaving it to the courts to decide whether there was any irregularity in the deal.

Ermita said the DOTC was asked to "justify itself" before the Supreme Court and the Office of the Ombudsman which are now looking into allegations of bribery in the brokering of the project.

Suplico has asked the Supreme Court to nullify the NBN.

An opposition congressman has filed a case against Mendoza and two assistant secretaries in the Office of the Ombudsman for allegedly entering into a grossly disadvantageous broadband deal with ZTE.

Speaker wants deal scrapped

Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. yesterday joined Senate President Manuel Villar in calling for the scrapping of the ZTE contract.

De Venecia said he earlier maintained his silence because of the involvement of his son and namesake Jose III in the controversy as one of the losing bidders for the NBN project.

"Whether (the project) is superior or not is not for me to say because of delicadeza although in principle I am in favor that it be cancelled as pointed out by Senate President Villar in an earlier announcement," De Venecia said.

Villar on Tuesday called for the cancellation of the broadband deal because it entailed a loan and because many of its features have yet to be explained by members of the administration directly involved in the agreement.

The NBN project seeks to es-

ZTE defends deal

GIVING ITS SIDE, ZTE POSED the question: "If our proposal is unfavorable to the Philippines, I wonder how you would describe our competitors?"

In a statement, Howard Xue, ZTE global marketing director, posed the question amid allegations that the ZTE pressured the Philippine government into agreeing into an unfavorable NBN deal.

"The problem is that people see 'Proposal One's amount is \$330 million' while 'Proposal Two's amount is \$240 million,' and automatically assume that the second is less. But there is such a thing as clever presentation to hide overall costs, and the use of propaganda to condition the minds of the

public," Xue said.

Under ZTE's proposal, the government will get a \$330 million loan from the Chinese government at an interest rate of 3 percent per annum. The loan has a five-year grace period, and is payable in 15 years.

On the other hand, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. will take out a \$240-million loan at commercial rates with around 10 years to pay.

AHI will also require the Philippine government to issue a performance undertaking, Xue said.

AHI's proposal would come out at least \$60 million more expensive than ZTE's, based on interest payments, he said.

establish a seamless connection of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government agencies and offices.

A group of lawmakers in the House is preparing to file an impeachment case against Abalos for allegedly brokering the deal on behalf of ZTE and trying to bribe an executive of a rival firm to drop its bid for the project.

Abalos has denied any wrongdoing.

Satisfied with Mendoza

Ermita said there was no reason for the Palace to investigate allegations of bribery because the matter was already with the high court and the Ombudsman.

"The President is satisfied that the primary secretary (Mendoza) has informed her that these things are to be inquired into by the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court and she doesn't have to believe all the allegations coming out in mass media," the executive secretary said.

As it is now, the public discussions on the NBN deal are just being manipulated, according to Ermita.

"We must be able to pinpoint the responsibility if there are irregularities as alleged. So let the court determine that," he said.

Ms Arroyo, he also said, was "confident that the Cabinet officials handling this particular undertaking are up to the challenge of handling it."

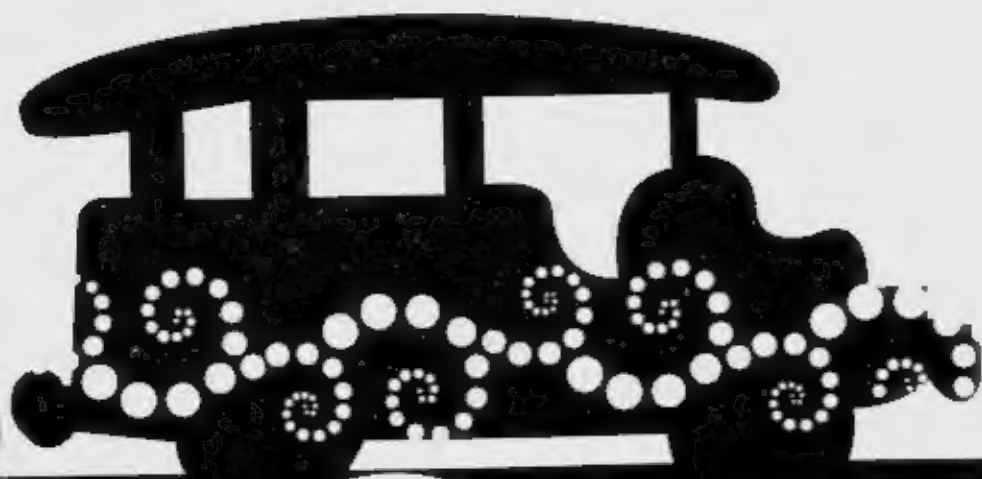
"The President definitely has confidence in her Cabinet, especially Larry Mendoza," Ermita said.

In Senate Resolution No. 127, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the blue ribbon committee and the committee on trade and commerce to look into the overprice of the NBN deal and Abalos' "highly suspicious and blatantly irregular, if not unlawful" lobbying in behalf of ZTE before, during and after the elections.

With reports from Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Tony Bergonia

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From page A1

The pretrial is scheduled on Sept. 26.

The court also said Alameda did not have to conduct a hearing before issuing an ar-

"An amended information is not a new information because it does not charge another offense different or distinct from that charged in the original one ... It is only after petitioner's arraignment that no substantial amendment of the information may be permitted," it said. *With a report from DJ Yap*

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Lomibao named to Berroya's job at LTO

From page A1

Arturo Lomibao.

Ms Arroyo last week named Devanadera as officer in charge of the DOJ in a concurrent capacity after Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez took a medical leave.

Compared to a "caretaker role" as officer in charge at the DOJ, which is only ministerial,

an acting justice secretary enjoys all the powers and prerogatives of the office.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters Ms Arroyo made the decision "because there are questions (about a caretaker role), considering so many important cases" were pending with the DOJ.

As officer in charge, Devanadera cannot sign appointments or make decisions, "so she should be given power and authority to sign important documents," said Ermita.



LOMIBAO: Made way for JDV

Devanadera, in turn, designated lawyer Amparo Tang as officer in charge at the Solicitor General's Office.

A native of Pangasinan, Lomibao agreed during the last



BERROYA: DOTC Asec

May elections to stand down in the congressional fight for the province's fourth district, against Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Ms Arroyo also made several other appointments—Francisco



DEVANADERA: Acting DOTC chief

Benedicto as undersecretary of foreign affairs, Felecito Masagay as commissioner of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and Oscar Inosentes as presidential assistant

for judicial affairs with the rank of undersecretary.

Ms Arroyo is scheduled to leave for Australia today to attend a summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic (Apec) forum.

On Monday, Ms Arroyo designated Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno as presidential adviser on political affairs, in a concurrent capacity.

Musical chairs

Ms Arroyo had previously assigned National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to temporarily oversee the political affairs of the office after Secretary Gabriel Claudio resigned for health reasons.

Gonzales was directed to concentrate on the case lodged in the Netherlands against Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison, and on possible peace deals with armed rebels.

Ms Arroyo said that Puno, who is also president (on leave) of her Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino (Kampi) party, would serve "indefinitely" in the dual role of head of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the political affairs office.

Ermita said he understood that Puno would be officer in charge at the office vacated by Claudio.

A stalwart of the ruling party Lakas-CMD, Claudio underwent delicate spiral surgery on Aug. 8. He resigned from the Cabinet on Aug. 24.

Other members of Ms Arroyo's official family who were reshuffled recently were Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri, who was "temporarily" moved to the Commission on Higher Education; Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, who took over the energy department; and acting Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane, who was returned to his old post at the Department of Public Works and Highways.

IMPORTANT

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, September 6, 2007
 22nd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:
 Gospel:

Col 1:9-14
 Luke 5:1-11

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary

We are meeting the churches of Paul as he travels. We see his pastoral concerns with each of them, and how they are developing and staying faithful to the teaching they have been given. There always are prayers for knowledge and wisdom (Gifts of the Spirit) and that we may live a life worthy of our baptisms (calling).

Jesus preaches this Word and life and then gets into Peter's boat and commands them to set out into the deep—they obey and catch so many fish they almost sink the boats. Peter gets a sense of who this man Jesus might be and asks mercy and forgiveness. We must always go back to this—that we are meant to go out into the deep with our God, ask mercy, be not afraid, leave all, and follow Jesus into the depths of God. Time for taking a risk?

'Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0'



'Mas buo ang loob ng kabataan ng Smokey Mountain na ipaglaban ang kinabukasan'

W

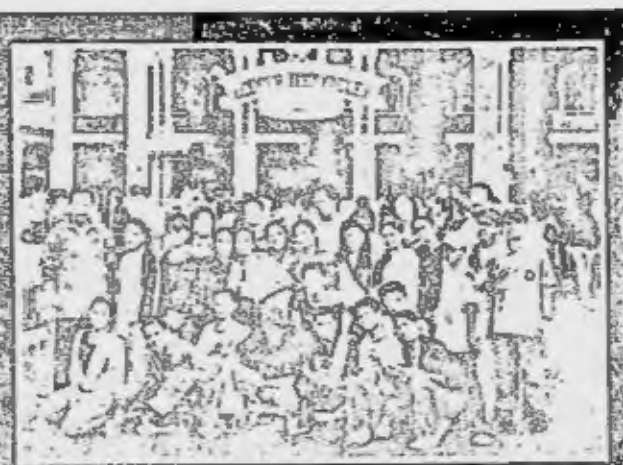
here escape is a natural recourse, the young leaders of Smokey Mountain opt to remain and work to see more improvements in their community.

Many of them have seen many key cities of the world. They have performed as a cultural dance group to raise funds for scholarships. Asked about their dreams, they hardly speak of leaving the country for better lives. They want to stay and see more progress at Smokey Mountain.

They want their community to be recognized as a Philippine showcase of transformation — from a community of dwellers who made a living out of a huge garbage dumpsite to one of dignified living, through self-help and perseverance. They want to be known for caring for people and the environment.

They see the recent Supreme Court decision, which upheld the validity of the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project that provided them permanent homes, as a propeller of dreams, a "bonus" for their efforts.

"Para sa akin, bonus na ang Supreme Court decision. Nakuha na namin ang tunay na halaga ng magkaroon



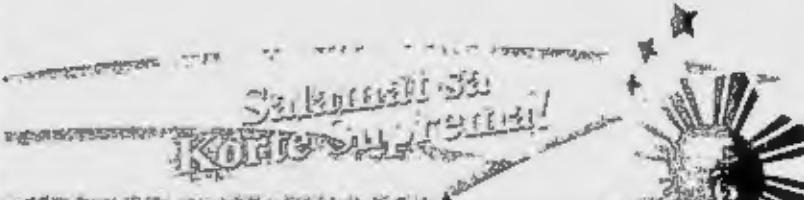
"Magpalo-ulo sa mga tulong para sa amin. Pero sana'y mas marami sa amin ang mamulat na kamit-lalaga ang tulong sa sarili namin. Pagsikapang ang edukasyon — pag-may education — may unity sa amining lugar. Pag-may unity, may progress ang community. (I hope that help continues to flow in and that more of our youth realize that it is through their own efforts that their lives would improve)." — states Shirley Cotoner, 18. She adds she will continue to be guided by the discipline developed in her by the late National Artist for Dance Ramon Obusan who served as community volunteer and arts trainer for the dance group Mga Anak ng Unang Daigdig. www.presmokey-mt.org



ng sariling bahay, ng malinis na paligid (I regard the SC decision as a bonus. We have long realized the benefits of having our own homes and clean surroundings)," states Andrew Macalalad, 28, Parish Youth Coordinator.

It has been nine years, starting from early 1999, since permanent homes in 21 medium-rise residential buildings were turned over to 2,520 families who were beneficiaries of the project undertaken by the National Housing Authority and R-II Builders Inc.

Andrew, who brought the Smokey Mountain stench with him to grade school, has been to Australia, US, Hong Kong and Japan with the cultural dance group and was 2006 representative to the APEC Youth Summit in Vietnam. As one of the first church scholars, he graduated with a degree in customs administration from the Philippine Maritime Institute. But he is not about to let go of community work. He still wants to see more youth volunteers give of their own selves for their community.



SC upholds detention of Army major in Feb '06 coup try

ARMY MAJ. JASON AQUINO will remain in detention after the Supreme Court dismissed the habeas corpus petition of his wife Maria Fe and ruled that his detention by the military was valid.

The high court upheld a Court of Appeals decision dismissing

Maria Fe's petition for the release of her husband, who is among several officers charged with involvement in the February 2006 coup attempt.

Aquino is charged with attempting to begin a mutiny in violation of Article 67, and with conduct unbecoming an officer and a

gentleman in violation of Article 96 of the Articles of War.

According to the high court, Aquino's detention was proper as he is governed by military law, and the Articles of War allow military officials to detain their personnel.

In its Aug. 31 decision released

yesterday, the high court said Article 70 of the Articles of War empowers the commanding officer to place, "in confinement or in arrest, any person subject to military law charged with a crime or with a serious offense under the Articles of War."

"As a general rule, the writ of

habeas corpus will not issue where the person alleged to be restrained of his liberty is in the custody of an officer under a process issued by the court which has jurisdiction to do so," it said.

The high court also rejected Maria Fe's argument that Aquino was not restricted to barracks or

quarters as required by the Article 70 of the Articles of War, but was instead placed in solitary confinement in a maximum security detention cell. She also said she was banned from visiting her husband, and described his treatment as extreme punishment. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Port of Manila posts record

THE PORT OF Manila has posted a record collection of P7.37 billion in August, the second consecutive month that District Collector Horacio R. Suansing has exceeded his target.

Suansing said the August collection was 13 percent—about P770 million—more than the Port of Manila's target last month.

"We will continue to plug all revenue leaks and increase the port's collection," he said in a press statement.

Commissioner Napoleon Morales told reporters on Monday that the Bureau of Customs, the government's second-biggest tax collector, hit its target of P20.8 billion in August.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue, which accounts for two-thirds of the government's tax take, also likely met its collection goal of P82 billion for August based on initial data.

The performance of the two agencies

in the previous two months indicates that state revenues are back on track after a weak first half.

The government exceeded its first-half budget deficit target by about a third after it failed to tackle widespread evasion. It is relying on improved collections and asset sales to meet its full-year shortfall goal of P63 billion.

With a report by Reuters

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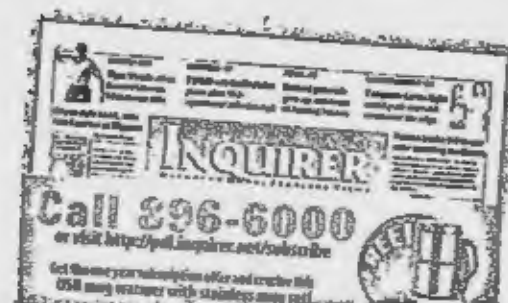
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GMA set to have 20-minute meeting with Bush tomorrow

From page A1

meeting, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo will have a meeting with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

Foreign Undersecretary Edsel Custodio said the agenda for the Bush-Arroyo meeting would be up to the two leaders.

"Leaders, when they meet, there is no agenda. You could probably guess the issues," Custodio said in a media briefing. But he said the issues of terrorism and transparency were likely to crop up.

Business meetings

On Saturday, Ms Arroyo will discuss with Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi the resumption of the government's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which Kuala Lumpur hosts.

Ms Arroyo will also meet with

the Filipino community and CEOs of leading American companies.

Tomorrow, Ms Arroyo will see Dr. Stan Shih, group chair of ID-SOFTVCAPITAL and cofounder of the Acer Group; Chip Goodyear, CEO of BHP Biliton; and Andronico Luksik, a Chilean mining executive.

She will have a working dinner with the president and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce and the US Apec Business Council.

Spreading the good news

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters in Manila that Ms Arroyo was looking forward to talk with Apec leaders "on how to promote economic stability, ensure peace and security, regional prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region while dealing with the global challenge of climate change."

Bunye said Ms Arroyo would discuss the "good news" about the country's economy and its "unwavering fight against terror" during the Apec summit.

"The President will be an active participant in discussions especially on climate change, given its impact on our country's weather patterns and effects on the agricultural sector," he said.

In her talks with Bush, Ms Arroyo is likely to discuss the country's new antiterror law, according to Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita. He said that the United States was actively supporting the Philippines' efforts to counter terrorism.

Jose Ma. Sison

Ermita also said the two leaders were likely to talk about US support for the Philippine military, including provision of

equipment and training.

Asked whether the recent arrest of communist leader Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands would be raised, Ermita said it was possible considering that US Ambassador Kristie Kenney was quoted recently as saying that the United States would help out if asked by the Netherlands in its case against Sison.

At the end of their two-day retreat, participants will issue the Apec Economic Leaders Declaration which will contain the strategic direction for Apec next year.

Apec groups Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, China, Indonesia, Hong Kong-China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States and Vietnam. *With a report from Christine O. Avendaño*

Asia-Pacific nations to strengthen food, product safety standards

ASIA-PACIFIC NATIONS ARE trying to map out a more robust approach to strengthening the region's food and product safety standards as ministers from the 21-member bloc opened their annual meeting yesterday.

The measure is among a number of initiatives outlined in a draft declaration prepared for the meeting of trade and foreign ministers from the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum ahead of their leaders' summit at the weekend.

"We agreed on the need to develop a more robust approach to strengthening food and consumer product safety standards and practices in the region, using scientific risk-based approaches, and without necessarily compromising trade," the draft declaration says.

The ministers called for greater confidence in food safety standards.

"We obviously take very seriously this whole issue of food safety," Australian Foreign Min-

ister Alexander Downer told reporters. "There needs to be greater confidence in standards. I think there's a consensus about that."

Apec member China has been battling a torrent of warnings and recalls abroad that have shaken the confidence of international markets in the "made in China" label on products ranging from toothpaste and toys to food and tires.

Toymaker Mattel Inc. on Tuesday announced a third recall of Chinese-made toys, saying it would take back more than 800,000 units globally with "impermissible" levels of lead. (*Story in World, Page A20.*)

The food and product safety measure is among a number of initiatives Apec is undertaking to enhance security in the region, including potential threats from terrorism, drugs and contaminated products, pandemics and the consequences of natural disasters. *Reuters*

Protesters Down Under to show Bush bottom line

From page A1

conomic Cooperation (Apec) summit.

Police have said they expect violence during a series of protests against the Apec summit which will gather together 21 leaders from around the world.

"There's this heaviness about the protests," Saunders said yesterday.

'Burns not bombs'

"It's hoped to make the point that protests don't have to be these terribly heavy serious things."

The "Burns Not Bombs" group will particularly target Bush, whose unpopular war in

Iraq has been strongly backed by Australian Prime Minister John Howard.

The visits by the world leaders, including Bush's five-day stay at a luxurious US\$3,500 per night harborside hotel, have resulted in road blocks, changes to public transport, and other disruptions in Australia's biggest city.

The protest will take place in Sydney's Hyde Park, close to where the leaders will be meeting.

'21 Bum Salute'

In a leaflet to possible supporters, the group calls for 4,000 cheeks—er, 2,000 people—to "tell Bush what we really think about his visit."

Saunders said numbers for

the protest were not yet certain but he had a core group to perform a "21 Bum Salute" to represent each of the countries in the grouping.

Bush apologizes

"I think there's certain to be hundreds of people," said Saunders, who previously attracted media attention when he and another man painted "No War" on the Sydney Opera House in huge, bright red letters on the eve of the US invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The group said it needed 4,000 cheeks to break the previous world record moon. "This is one Apec protest we can all enjoy," it said.

Bush himself seemed unworried about any of the protests, but he apologized for the tight security net that has snarled traffic.

"To the extent that I've caused this, I apologize," Bush said at the press conference with Howard yesterday. "I apologize to the Australian people if I've caused this."

'What a pain'

His doleful words came after an Australian reporter welcomed him to Sydney and emphasized that "it doesn't always look like this, with steel fences, and concrete barricades, and armed guards on the street."

"I hope you feel safe," Bush

broke in. "You feel inconvenienced, obviously."

Amid the largest security operation in Australian history, Bush said that the last thing he wanted was to have his hosts conclude "what a pain it is to have the American president" as a result.

Feeling guilty

"Unfortunately, however, this is what the authorities thought was necessary to protect people. And you live in a free society. People feel like they want to protest—fine, they can. And unfortunately, evidently, some people may want to try to be violent in their protests," he added.

When the reporter said he was not blaming Bush personally, the US leader replied: "I guess I must be feeling guilty, you know what I'm saying?"—drawing laughter from the audience.

Around 3,500 police, backed by 1,500 counterterrorism and special forces soldiers, are enforcing a city center exclusion zone bordered by a forbidding fence in a security crackdown criticized as excessive by civil libertarians.

The 2.8-meter-high steel and concrete wall stretches some 5.5 kilometers through the city and around iconic tourist attractions such as the Sydney Opera House. *AFP*

WHAT'S THE EMERGENCY NUMBER THAT WORKS ON ANY LATITUDE?

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Joma not covered by amnesty, says Esperon

From page A1

ered," Esperon said.

Asked if Sison's alleged crimes in the Philippines would be covered, Esperon quipped: "I think that's something for the legal minds to study. Probably yes, but he is now facing charges in Netherlands. So our amnesty will not cover any laws of other lands."

US assistance

Sison, 68, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, was arrested by Dutch police on Aug. 28 and ordered detained by a judge in The Hague.

A statement by Wim de Bruin, spokesperson of the Dutch national prosecutor's office, said Sison was suspected of giving orders, from the Netherlands, to murder former communist associates Romulo Kintana and Arturo Tabara.

The CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, have been listed as terrorist organizations both by the European Union and the United States.

US Ambassador to the Philippines Kristie Kenney has said that Washington is willing to help the Dutch government prosecute Sison if the latter would seek US help.

AFP backs amnesty

At the Malaysian reception, Esperon said he expected more legal questions to crop up on the qualifications of applicants for amnesty once the proclamation was released and submitted to Congress for concurrence.

Esperon said the AFP fully supported the amnesty proclamation as long as the rebels would return to the mainstream. He said the AFP was part of the discussions when the amnesty proposal was being considered.

Legal loopholes

"It's OK with us if they come to the mainstream, except of course for certain crimes like rape, and crimes not in connection with political beliefs. Otherwise, we will go for that," he stressed.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, who also attended the Malaysian affair, said he, too, was for giving amnesty to rebels except for crimes committed not in furtherance of political beliefs.

Ramos urged Malacañang to carefully study the parameters of the amnesty program to avoid legal loopholes.

The National Security Council the other day approved the grant of amnesty to communist rebels willing to lay down their arms, in a move it hoped would hasten the conclusion of the stalled peace negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front.

The amnesty could also cover party-list representatives charged with rebellion for their alleged involvement in a conspiracy to overthrow the government in February 2006, Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said.

Administration ploy

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo described the amnesty offer as "malicious... (and) consistent with the Red-baiting tactics of Malacañang against progressives."

Ocampo reminded Gonzales and Dureza that the Makati Regional Trial Court had already dismissed the "Palace-fabricated" rebellion cases against him and 50 other coaccused.

"The trumped-up rebellion case against us has long been dismissed by the Supreme Court," said Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza.

Ocampo said amnesty "is a standard counterinsurgency ploy in light of the government's declared goal to finish (off) by 2010 the Left insurgency (by) strategically defeating the New People's Army."

"(For) amnesty to be meaningful, (it) must form part of a comprehensive peace agreement and not a unilateral act of government in an ongoing armed conflict," he said. *With a report from Christian V. Esquerro*

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Cop-out

THE POLICE HAVE CHANGED TACK ON THE JONAS Burgos mystery, and unfortunately for the missing activist and all those who hope to see his abductors brought to justice, the police have moved in the direction first tracked by the military. Now the police see communist rebels, and only communist rebels, as responsible for the crime.

EDITORIAL

We have serious reservations about the new witnesses presented by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, however. Many of these concern the implausibility of the military's claims, but the most significant doubts arise from what went before these witnesses were presented.

Military sources that journalists have relied on for years have sworn that a unit of either the Intelligence Service of the AFP or of the 56th Infantry Battalion based in Bulacan were involved in the abduction. A state prosecutor has asserted that six soldiers were behind the disappearance, a claim that earned him the justice secretary's displeasure. And ever since Burgos was forcibly seized in a mall last April, the leadership of the AFP has acted in a less-than-forthright, suspicion-inducing manner: stonewalling, finding excuses not to appear before the courts, refusing to turn over the results of internal investigations.

For these and other reasons, we find the military's most recent version of events suspect. Unfortunately, the police now share that interpretation. And they have brought to it their own worst practices.

Let us, using the most recent statements of Senior Supt. Joel Coronel of the Criminal Investigation Detection Group, consider only two of these fatal flaws.

First, an almost total dependence on eyewitness testimony.

Coronel is well within his rights to judge the testimony of Emerito Lipio, a member of the New People's Army, as providing the most "logical and coherent" picture of the Burgos abduction. That is his lookout. But his complete reliance on Lipio's belated testimony illustrates the weakness of many, if not most, of the cases our police officers investigate.

They are, most of them, based on the say-so of someone or other. For that very reason, many of them do not prosper in court—the testimonies are eminently recantable.

To be sure, in the Burgos disappearance, Coronel speaks of a pattern he sees in the testimony of other witnesses. "[Lipio's] statements are consistent with what other witnesses have told us before."

But his case, as he makes it, depends entirely on these witnesses. He excludes such evidence as the license plates of the Toyota Revo used in abducting Burgos from the mall, which have been traced back to the impounding area inside the headquarters of the 56 IB in Norzagaray, Bulacan. (Why? They, too, were pointed out by eyewitnesses.)

This brings us to the second worst practice. Coronel's statements remind us, yet again, that the police sometimes have the habit of disregarding the evidence that is right before their eyes.

Coronel, for example, said he found the alleged connection between the controversial license plates and military involvement in the Burgos abduction "really puzzling."

Now that's a puzzlement. By any reasonable standard, the fact—and it's a fact—that the plates on an abductor's vehicle were traced back to a battalion HQ should be considered to mean that a prima facie case does exist to investigate the possible involvement of battalion officers or men in the abduction.

Unfortunately, it would take enormous self-confidence and political will on the part of the police to say that. Thus, the cop-out: Police officers who now choose to give credence only to those witnesses whose testimony favors the military.

Checkmate?

THE LATEST INTELLIGENCE REPORT ABOUT IRAQ—A CONVINCINGLY cold-eyed assessment—shows that the United States has almost no moves left to make in Iraq. If the recent "surge" of additional combat brigades is showing signs of success, it's yet another indictment of the decision to invade Iraq without enough troops to effectively control the country.

FOREIGN COMMENT

The recent glimmer of good news from the fighting is hardly a promise of success. America cannot succeed unilaterally in Iraq; it can only give Iraqis enough breathing room to succeed themselves. Security may buy time, but the ultimate solution must be political.

The News Tribune (Tacoma, Washington)

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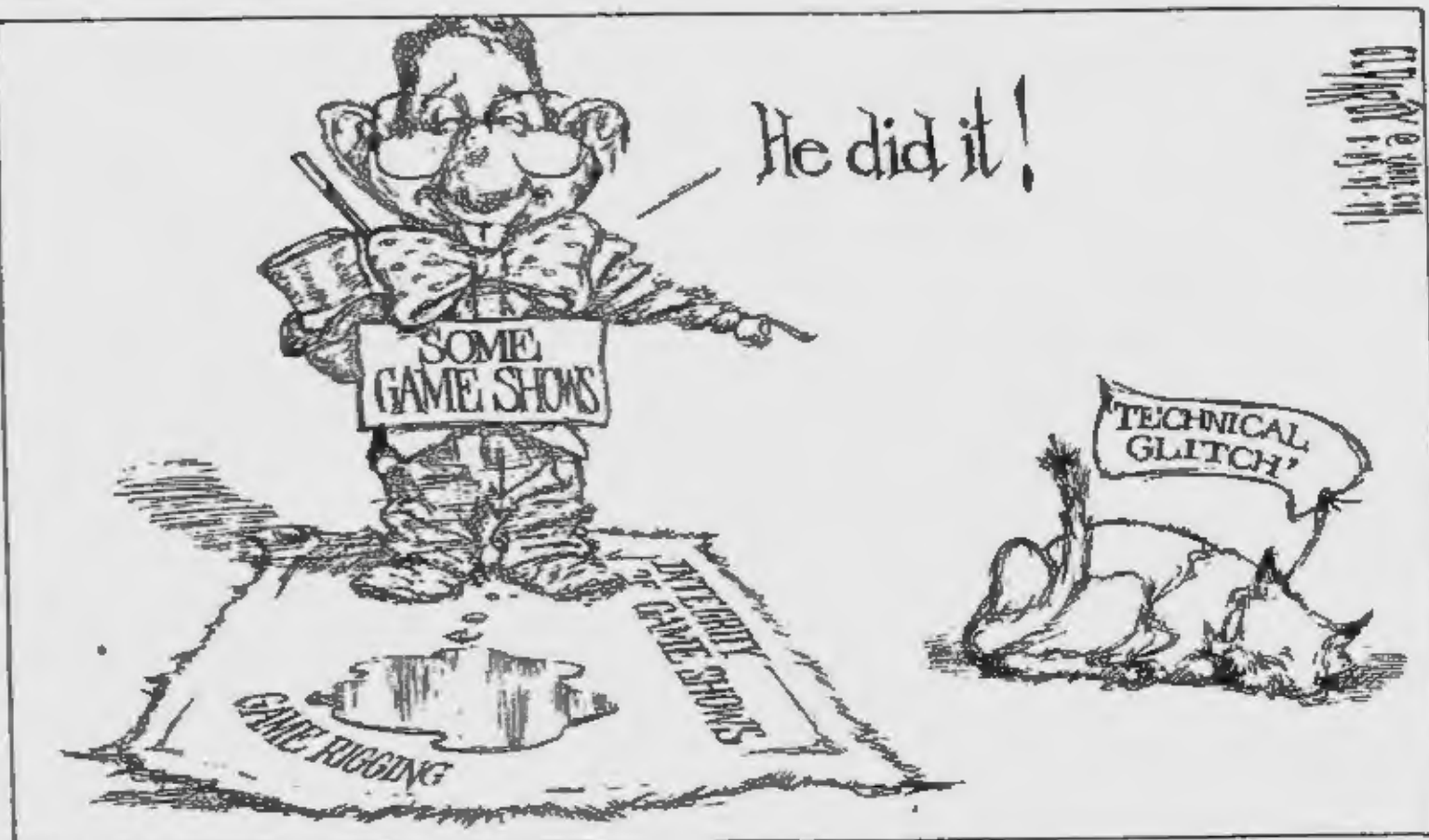
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Cry of the widows

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado



"IN EUROPE, THERE ARE ONLY TWO COMMUNISTS left," editor Sumono Mustoffa said over dinner in Jakarta. "Both are Filipinos." Since then, the National Democratic Front's Luis Jalandoni has become a naturalized Dutch citizen. Thus, in negotiating scuffles between government and the NDF, the late columnist Maximo Soliven would grouse: "Why is this alien meddling in our internal affairs?"

By Sumono's head count, that left Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) founder Jose Ma. Sison, 68, "if you're a 'true believer,' live in North Korea," columnist Alejandro Rocas, Antonio Abaya and others needed Sison. "Or fight with the New People's Army."

Instead, Sison sought haven in the Netherlands in 1987. He chose well. The Netherlands' traditions of democratic space are sturdy.

The Dutch government bucked the deportation of Sison to ensure his protection from persecution. It facilitated meetings, between the NDF and the Philippine government—in The Hague in June 1996, in Breukelen in March 1997. Sison pocketed social benefit checks—stopped only after the European Union tagged the NDF and the CPP as terrorist organizations.

Sison exploited this libertarian elbow room to stoke a "people's war" here by e-mail and fax, dispatched from the comfort of his Utrecht flat. "The burgis lifestyle of these overfed aging commissars saps their credibility," the Cebu Daily News noted. "Absentee-generals stand Mao's dictum—'Revolutions are not a garden party'—on its head."

Dutch police arrested Sison late August. The national prosecutor's office asserted that Sison ordered "the murder (of) former political associates in the Philippines—Romulo Kintanar in 2003 and Arturo Tabara in 2004." Both broke away from Sison's group in the early 1990s. NPA hit men gunned them down. "A truly ugly image was the spectacle of party-list representatives toasting the assassination of a former comrade, who was Kintanar," snapped the Inquirer's Conrado de Quiros.

Sison is detained at Scheveningen Penitentiary Facility while courts evaluate charges filed by the widows, Gloria Kintanar and Veronica Tabara. Under Dutch law, it's criminal to plot murder in the Netherlands, even if the trigger is pulled elsewhere.

Sison will get a fair trial. Dutch courts are independent and fair. But do his comrades see the patent irony? Kangaroo courts that stud the communist system they peddle would shred Sison's rights.

Sanctuary, as extended by countries like the Netherlands to foreigners like Sison, is a privilege. It is not a right. Privilege is interlinked with responsibility. And scrupulous observance of the host country's laws is the bare minimum expected.

Utang na loob runs deep in the Filipino psyche. Yet, party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño "transformed the Netherlands from 'patron of patriots' into 'lackey of the illegitimate,'" a Freeman editorial noted. "According to the gospel of Ocampo and Casiño, (the Netherlands) suddenly became a Gestapo state. (They) conveniently forget that for 20 long years, the Filipino communist leader lived off the graciousness and protection of that country."

Will the publicity jerk the Filipinos' fixation away from "Wowowee" long enough to hear the cry of hundreds widowed by communist salvaging in our midst?

"You kill the chicken to scare the monkey" was how Mao Zedong justified the murder of party leaders who bucked paranoid rule. That grisly proverb anchored the communist pogroms of the 1980s and the CPP's adoption of assassination as policy starting in 1992.

Walls

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros



ends with Emilio Aguinaldo waving the flag in Kawit. It lasts about 40 minutes (I forgot to look at my watch, which should say something about how engrossing it can be), a journey in time (and space: you go from room to room) from the small villages that dotted the islands engaged in planting and small-scale trading with seafaring Chinese; to the coming of the Spaniards and the initial resistance to them; to the conquest of the islands by Legaspi who employed divide-and-conquer; to the cementing (quite literally) of Spanish rule with the building of Intramuros; to grinding oppression and the rebellions it spawned; to the rise of the ilustrados and their greatest representative, Jose Rizal; to the birth of the Katipunan; to Rizal's trial and execution; to snatching victory from defeat, a nation is born from the ashes of a martyr.

It's a splendid and gripping story, told, if not at a rapid-fire MTV pace, at least in a visually exciting style the kids in particular should find "kewl." I liked three things about it:

First is that it tells our story from our point of view. This version of it shows once and for all that the days when Philippine history begins with Magellan's discovery of Macran are over. We never needed discovering, we were always here, minding our own business, living peacefully with others and as freely and happily as it is possible to do with a simple economy. R. Landa Jocano was one of those who did much to show that we were by no means a primitive people when the Spaniards came: we had a rudimentary form of written language, a fairly well-layered social organization and strong religious beliefs. Of course, historians objected to his use of "Philippine prehistory" to

depict that period, which bolstered the view that Philippine history really began with the Spaniards. But time, as the Light and Sound presentation now shows, has changed all that.

Second is its insight into the significance of Intramuros. Intramuros, of course, means "Walled City," a thing that truly deserved its name. It was built on the backs of the conquered natives, and it became the physical and spiritual embodiment of Spanish rule. The segment about Intramuros expressly says it, noting that the walls did not just rise in space, they rose in the indio's mind, making him believe there will always be a wall between what he is and can be, between his aspirations and their fulfillment. Unfortunately that theme is not resolutely pursued or "concretized" throughout the narrative. Well, it is never too late to make editorial, if not historical, revisions.

But it's true: Colonialism was the building of walls in space and mind. It built solid divisions between classes, much like the caste system; it built solid divisions within classes, or among the indios themselves, an affliction we labor under to this day; and it built a wall, strung with barbed wire and patrolled by a tower, in the Filipino mind, one that would make freedom—a Bagumbayan or Bagong Bayan, a New City outside of the Walled one—always seem unattainable. Jose Rizal broke some of those walls, as did others before him. But to this day, the dream of a Bagong Bayan remains elusive.

And, finally, there is something genuinely awe-inspiring standing on the ground where Rizal spent his last days on earth, and reliving those moments even if you only have life-sized figurines, the sounds of silence and "Fuego!" and the dark to do the trick. The past does spring back to life, and you must be a little dead to not feel at the end of it that you are right there in Bagumbayan, reduced to one of the helpless spectators watching Rizal falling to the ground in slow motion.

If only walls could talk? Ah, but these walls can. These walls do.

And how they talk!

The doc who moved a mountain

WE WANT TO THANK MICHAEL Tan for writing about Doc Louie. (INQUIRER, 8/31/07) I am Doc Louie's eldest son and I want to share with Tan and his readers our short tribute to the noble "Duktor ng Bayan."

"Ode to Lolo Louie (in praise of Dr. Glorioso V. Saturay)"

*They say a death of somebody/
Who lived a life for the people/ Is as heavy as a mountain/ But no, a death of somebody/ Who lived a life for the people/ Is really not a death at all/ It's life nurturing other lives/ For the life you lived is a thread/ In weaving the people's new dawn.*

The poem was written by his 14-year-old granddaughter, Ilena Rose

She was inspired by that story about a foolish old man who went to a mountain and began to dig. A wise old man passed by and said, "Why do you dig, foolish old man? Do you not know that you cannot move the mountain with a little shovel?"

But the foolish old man answered resolutely, "While the mountain cannot get any higher, it will get lower with each shovelful. When I pass on, my children, their children and their children's children will go on digging, making the mountain lower. Why can't we move the mountain?"

We cannot think of any other way to describe how Doc Louie has become a part of so many people's

lives. He carried on his work as a doctor fighting a disease caused by poverty, greed, exploitation and oppression with the dedication and determination of the foolish old man trying to move a mountain.

The way he cared for, valued and served other people, especially the poor and the oppressed, is the single most valuable legacy that he left for all of us. And we shall all try our best to carry on our lives and our work this way. I am sure that this is the way that he would like to be remembered. Some day, people will wake up and realize that the mountain had been moved.

—JUN SATURAY,
jun.saturay@gmail.com

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LETTERS

Root cause

"APPARENTLY THE EDUCATION system faces two major challenges: access to education, and issues of quality." ("It's the basics, stupid," INQUIRER, 8/23/07) May I respectfully add the third major challenge Philippine education is facing—how to eradicate corruption in the system.

Corruption is the basic source of such problems as poor quality, hurriedly printed books, unfinished or sub-standard school buildings, missing funds, growing incompetence among the ranks where positions are given to the highest bidder, wrong priorities and many more.

When will our education officials ever learn? The future of our children—the hope of our nation—is at stake here.

—JAMES TANAKA,
tanakajd1980@yahoo.com

GSIS explains fewer claims, loans

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK SOLITA Monsod for bringing to our attention several issues about the Government Service Insurance System. We have also communicated with Ernest Fedenso of Iloilo so that we could act on his 19-item list concerning the GSIS which unfortunately was only brought to our attention through Monsod's column.

However, permit us to explain the decline in the number of transactions in GSIS claims and loans. It is true that the number of transactions decreased from 5 million in 2004 to 4.6 million in 2005, and 3.6 million in 2006. There is a fairly simple explanation for this. In 2004, the GSIS offered two new loan programs, the Cash Advance and the Summer One-Month Salary Loan (SOS). In 2006, the GSIS offered an improved loan package called the Conso-Loan. This loan program consolidated three types of loans, the Emergency Loan Assistance, SOS and the Salary Loan.

The Conso-Loan extends the term of the loan to a maximum of six years. It also provides higher loan proceeds for members. More importantly, the Conso-Loan condones all the penalties and surcharges that availing members have incurred from unpaid loans. Simply put, several loan programs were consolidated into one in 2006, thus, the decline in the number of transactions.

We also appreciate the fact that Monsod agrees with the eCard Plus concept. We believe that the eCard not only promotes efficiency in the disbursement of claims and benefits but also protects our members and pensioners from fraud and such cases.

We hope that we have enlightened Monsod on some of the issues raised in her column.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service
Insurance System, Pasay City

One-sided report on 'Couples' split

THE NEWS ITEM TITLED "BISHOPS TO DISCUSS 'Couples' split," under the byline of Jeannette I. Andrade (INQUIRER, 8/28/07), appears to be biased in favor of Antonio Meloto who is often quoted in the report. It's only his side of the issue that gets prominently articulated.

There was also this allusion that Frank Padilla formed a "faction" dubbed as "Easter or Playboy bunnies." The reporter must be referring to the Restoration movement that later blossomed into the Couples for Christ Foundation for Family and Life (CFC-FFL).

No one in Frank's group ever called it "Playboy bunnies," which cannot but be taken as a pejorative label considering that this is a "Catholic and faith-based community." It must have come from Frank's detractors. Yet, it gets printed as a fact in the report.

—GEORGE DEE,
geex25@yahoo.com

I was covering an activity of the Gawad Kalinga at the University of the Philippines when I chanced upon Antonio Meloto. Naturally, I took the opportunity to get his side on the reported split of the Couples for Christ. I apologize if the report seemed one-sided but be assured that there was no intention to make the article biased in favor of any personality involved in the issue.

—JEANNETTE I. ANDRADE,
reporter, Inquirer

Continued success for Inquirer, Cunanan

AS CHAPLAIN OF THE HOSPITAL OF THE Infant Jesus for many years, I have been buying a copy of the INQUIRER every day, from a vendor. I congratulate the publication.

In the Aug. 12 issue, I was especially interested in the articles "Eight steps to a strong heart," "The world within reach," "50 years of working for Christ and country," "Are you sleeping with the enemy?" and "Taking hold of technology," among others.

And I am also interested in the column of Belinda Olivares-Cunanan, not just because she has mentioned me many times in her column but because of her objective views on many events.

Wishing the INQUIRER continued success in helping us have an objective view on the many events happening in the Philippines and various parts of the world.

—FR. PIERRE T. TRITZ, SJ,
president,
Educational Research and Development
Assistance (Erda) Foundation Inc.,
66 Linaw St., Sta. Mesa Heights, QC

Sigma Rho alumni also want justice for Mendez

IN THE PAST FEW DAYS, IT HAS BEEN REPORTED, in both print and broadcast media, that the UP Sigma Rho Fraternity was involved in the death of Cris Anthony Mendez, a senior UP student.

The Sigma Rho Council Inc., the alumni association of the UP Sigma Rho Fraternity, condemns in the strongest possible terms the untimely death of Mendez. We both urge the police and university authorities to thoroughly investigate this unwarranted incident to ferret out the truth.

We condole with the family of Mendez. No words can assuage the pain and grief over the loss of a son. We assure his family that the Sigma Rho Council Inc. is interested as much in bringing things to light so that justice may be served.

We also appeal to the media to be more circumspect in their reporting and not make a media circus out of the incident. Such will only serve to muddle the issue. Quite surely, the proper authorities are doing their job to solve the incident.

We raise once more our call for the university fraternities to convene, with the participation of university officials, and seek a common plan of action to arouse a collective consciousness, rooted in civic responsibility, to put an end to activities that only breed a culture of violence in society.

—BIENVENIDO I. SOMERA JR.,
president,
Sigma Rho Council Inc.
Legaspi Village, Makati City



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INQUIRER Southern Luzon

Calatagan mangroves under threat

By Marlon Alexander Luistro
Calatagan, Batangas

SO WHO'S KILLING THE MANGROVES OF SCENIC CALATAGAN?

The third-class municipality (annual income: P21 million-P27 million) in Batangas that has been declared a marine reserve, is facing new threats, according to small fishermen.

Ruperto Aleroz, advocacy officer of the Samahan ng Malilit na mga Mangangisda sa Calatagan, said the project expansion of JLV Prawn Farm in Barangay Tanagan would destroy the remaining mangroves in the area and the livelihood of thousands of fishermen.

JLV Prawn Farm, a project of lawyer Juan Lorenzo Vergara, has been constructing fishponds, pumping stations, laboratory building, laborers' quarters, a house and a wharf within an eight-hectare land in Tanagan.

"Calatagan is a marine reserve which is still under the process of rehabilitation. Sadly, we

have been planting mangroves but a project would only wipe them out," said Aleroz.

The prawn farm's manager, Sergio Magbanua, has denied the allegations. "We never cut the mangroves because we know it is illegal. I don't know what caused the death of the mangroves but we did not kill them."

He added that the farm even helped by planting 30,000 mangroves in the sea.

Dialogue

Small fishermen asked Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto in a dialogue on Aug. 29 to help them protect the seas and convince Environment Secretary Jose Lito Aduena to pursue charges against those found violating the law.

The town has 48,001 hectares of municipal waters and 19 of its 25 villages are coastal areas, according to Jessie de los Reyes, chair of the Calatagan Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council.

About 66.5 percent of the reefs are classified as good corals with Hawksbill turtles known to nest at the Pagapas Bay, he said. Dolphins are usually sighted in the area.

"Development projects, however, are now threatening these species and the town's rich natural resources," he said.

De los Reyes said the livelihood of at least 3,000 families, who earn from the sale of fish, seashells, sea cucumbers, starfish, sea urchins and other marine creatures, would suffer as a result of the destruction of mangroves.

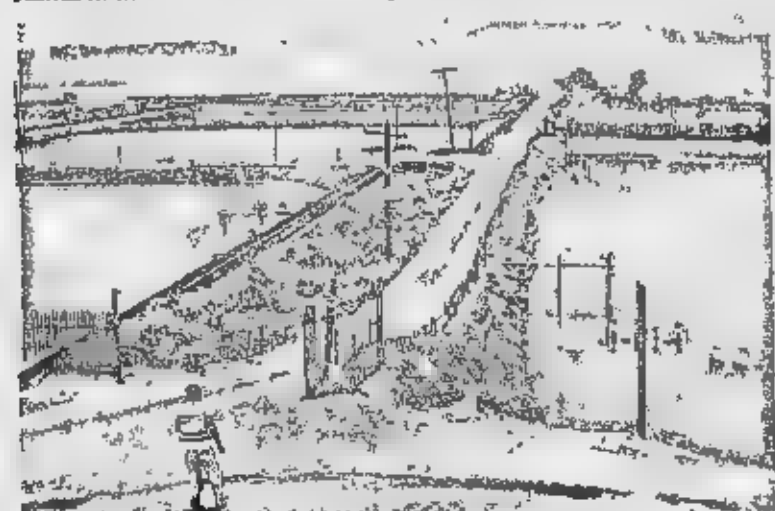
ECC document

Magbanua said the farm's quarrying activities were covered by an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. He denied that the new roads had destroyed the mangroves.



LIFELESS mangrove trees inside the JLV Prawn Farm in Barangay Tanagan, Calatagan town. PHOTOS BY MARLON LUISTRO

THE JLV Prawn Farm project in Barangay Tanagan, Calatagan, Batangas is said to have caused the death of mangrove stands in the area.



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The farm was "totally compliant of laws," he added, claiming that it only developed the eight-hectare land area covered by the project's ECC.

Aleroz confirmed that the farm was able to obtain an ECC from the DENR's regional Environmental Management Bureau on Oct. 24, 2005.

In a letter sent to DENR regional executive director Eduardo Principe on Aug. 17, the provincial environment and natural resources officer, Maximo Soriano, recommended the temporary suspension of the ECC pending resolution of certain issues, including claims that "the development project caused the death of mangrove stands."

Josefa Epelonga, 44, of Barangay Tanagan, who earns P300 daily from selling seashells, said several mangroves had died and caused the shells to move to another habitat.

"We cannot even get close to the sea because we are being reprimanded by the farm," she said, adding that she had to travel to far areas just to be able to gather seashells.

Magbanua belied Epelonga's claims that the farm was denying small fishermen access to the sea. "Those people are always

saying we are destroying the mangroves, but I challenge them to come here personally and check what we are doing," he said.

Reclamation project

Another issue is the reclamation project of businessman Raymond Moreno at the Pagapas Bay, which the small fishermen said had destroyed corals and seagrass beds in the bay. The DENR has already issued two notices of violations against the project.

Then Environment Secretary Michael Defensor directed the dismantling of the reclaimed access road in June 2005, but this was stopped by a court when it issued a preliminary injunction order.

Environmental lawyer Maria Paz Luna said criminal charges of violations of the Water Code could still be filed by the DENR against Moreno for allegedly blocking the entry of water to the mangroves. Santos could help them convince the DENR secretary to file the case, she said.

During her dialogue with the small fishermen, Governor Santos said she would study the issues raised by the fishermen but did not promise a quick solution.

Young inventor helps builders reduce costs

By Fernan Gianan
Virac, Catanduanes

THE CAPITAL TOWN OF THE storm-tossed island-province of Catanduanes is home to a young inventor who holds the patent for a cost-saving construction material that is now being used by local contractors and home builders.

Boxes of the prefabricated galvanized iron tie wire invented by 22-year-old Dexter Teope are being sold in hardware stores at P85 per kilo, saving construction companies or house owners more than 20 percent in labor costs.

In fact, the Japanese contractor of the multi-million-peso Gogon bridge project has indicated interest in purchasing the prefabricated tie wires.

Time-saving

What is now a promising business for Teope began as a worm of an idea when he was a 12-year-old Grade 6 student and playing at their neighbor's house then being constructed. "I wondered why it took so long for a worker to cut and bend the tie wire when it could have been sold as a ready-made material," he reveals.

He kept the idea at the back of his mind for the next several years, graduating from the Catanduanes Colleges as a computer technician. He went to Makati City to work as a waiter at Shangri-la Hotel.

After a year, Teope returned and began putting his ideas on paper—some simple and others so complicated that it required many moving parts. In January 2005, he finally applied for a patent of his invention at the Intellectual Property Office, paying a total of P2,500 in fees.

Patent

On Nov. 18, 2006, he got Patent No. 2-2005-000060 for his prefabricated tie wire and began making a simple machine to make his product. He had already perfected a machine—built from P300 worth of small pipes, bearings and tire spokes—in Manila when he ventured to a 35-story condominium being constructed on España Avenue.

His sales pitch to the contractor worked so well that he was asked to deliver 10 tons of tie wire right then and there. Stunned by



DEXTER Teope, 22, inventor of the prefabricated galvanized iron tie wire.

the offer, he regretfully told the buyer that he had only 10 kilos available.

Still, he took as a great inspiration from the contractor's advice to him that he must come back if he already had 10 tons.

Teope went back to Virac and had three more of the machines fabricated. He never went back to Manila to deliver the 10 tons, he decided to start small so he could see his business grow.

Today, his GT Manufacturing employs five households in Barangay Rawis, with mothers and even disabled youth cutting tie wire to standard lengths while watching TV at night.

At his parents' house, Teope employs four machine operators and one packer, who altogether produce 140 kilos daily. Each box of 20 kilo-packs is sold for P75 per kilo to hardware stores, which sell them for P80 on retail.

The inventor's father Osias, 63, a retired school principal, says his son—the middle of three children—could have inherited his inventive streak from his grandfather Telesforo, who did not finish schooling but was good at mathematics.

Among his other ideas—about 80 in all and carefully drawn on paper—are a seat-belt harness for tricycle drivers, a multicircuit connector to replace the junction box in electrical systems, and a head massager built from discarded electric fan covers.

Business, FVR, Enrile, Ermita on Erap verdict

From page A1

criminals and a short list of big fish who are punished for wrongdoing," he said.

According to Del Castillo, the business community expects a verdict of conviction and corresponding punishment for Estrada, who is under house arrest at his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal.

"Confidence will be affected," he said of the prospect of an acquittal or a pardon.

Nonetheless, the business community is focused on the economic fundamentals and will be unnerved only if the security situation deteriorates as a result of the Sandiganbayan decision, whatever it may be, De Castillo said.

No choice

In Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile's opinion, Estrada has no choice but to accept a presidential pardon should the anti-graft court convict him of plunder.

A pardon is not for Estrada to reject because when the President grants it, she can immediately pull out the guards from his vacation estate, according to Enrile.

The senator expressed doubt that a verdict of acquittal would again raise questions on the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

He pointed out that Estrada's term had already run its course and that Ms Arroyo was serving a new term. Thus, he said, there was no reason for Ms Arroyo to be insecure about her term.

Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the ousted President's eldest son, said there was no reason for Ms Arroyo to fear any payback from his father should the verdict be an acquittal.

"We are only out to clear our father's name; we have no

Erap seeks regular pass to be with dying ma

By Jocelyn R. Uy

JOSEPH ESTRADA HAS asked the Sandiganbayan to grant him a pass to make regular visits to his ailing mother at the San Juan Medical Center.

Through his lawyer, former Sen. Rene Saguisag, Estrada yesterday said his request was ironic considering that judgment day was near but he had to be at his 102-year-old mother's bedside, as advised by the family doctor.

The verdict on Estrada's plunder case is expected to be issued on or before Sept. 14, unless the justices of the anti-graft court's Special Division request the Supreme Court for an extension.

Saguisag presented a letter sent him by Dr. Lorenzo Hocson stating that the condition of Estrada's mother, Mary Ejercito, could "deteriorate at



ESTRADA

any given time" after three surgical procedures.

Ejercito has been confined at the hospital since Aug. 10 for treatment of pneumonia and hypertension.

Hocson said Ejercito had endured the insertion of a

feeding tube and a procedure to monitor the pressure of blood in the heart.

At any time

"As a lay person, without sounding morbid, we take this to mean that the Good Lord may call her any time," Saguisag said in a three-page motion filed with the Sandiganbayan's Special Division.

In seeking the court's permission to make regular visits to his mother, Estrada also acknowledged the difficulties of trips to and from his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, where he is being detained.

"We, therefore, seek guidance from the doctor, the prosecution and the police, as to what may be agreed upon for recommendation and submission to this court so that [Estrada] may regularly see his mother in the weeks ahead ...," part of the motion read.

other agenda," the younger Estrada said.

On the other hand, former President Fidel Ramos told the INQUIRER on Tuesday that all talk about a pardon for Estrada in case of a conviction was premature.

SWS survey

He said government officials should wait for the court's verdict before making such an offer.

Ramos shook his head at the mention of the recent Social Weather Stations survey

showing that most residents of Mega Manila were in favor of a pardon for Estrada.

"You wait for the court," he stressed.

'Consider the people'

At a press conference in Malacañang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the Sandiganbayan's verdict could be used by certain quarters to sow chaos and instability, and that it was up to Estrada to ease the tense political atmosphere.

Ermita also called on the

public to remain calm, and for Estrada partisans to observe the rule of law.

"As a good citizen and especially as a public official, all I can say is if my advice is sought [by Estrada]—and for that matter, I'm saying it right now—the best option would be really to consider the conditions of the greater majority of our people," Ermita said.

Asked whether he would advise Estrada to "shun any offer to do an Edsa IV after his verdict," Ermita said:

"Let's not think of things

that would destabilize ourselves because, of course, economic progress can only happen in a stable political environment. Anything that will cause destabilization even in the minds of our people should be avoided."

Ermita said he expected Estrada to be "a responsible citizen."

"Considering that he was President, and knowing him, I think he knows what's good for our people..." the executive secretary said.

'He knows better'

Ermita said he could not offer anything in exchange for Estrada's cooperation in suppressing street protests.

"The former President is definitely much better than I am. He became President, I'm only where I am, so I don't think that I can advise him on anything. He definitely knows better than what I might know, as far as his conduct is concerned," Ermita said, adding:

"But I know that the reason he's popular is that as a political leader, he wants the welfare of the majority of our people, rather than just personal ends, to be [paramount]. To that extent, I think former President Estrada would know how to conduct himself, especially in light of all these rumors of what might happen as a result of the verdict, whatever the verdict might be."

'Exchange of views'

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales on Tuesday said that he had a lunch meeting last week with Estrada but that it was a mere "exchange of views."

Also on Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno, Ms Arroyo's newly appointed political adviser, said a pardon for Estrada in the event of a conviction was not far-fetched. Reports from Nor-man Bordadora, Gil C. Caba-cungan Jr., Cynthia D. Bal-ana and Michael Lim Ubac

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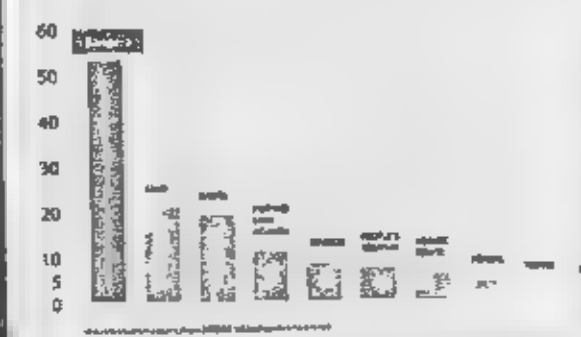


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OC capital ng RP? sa page 3

Jordan ends RP's Olympic bid

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LOTTO TIP: 22 PAGE 11

Operasyon sa Basilan tuloy na

Jeross, Jake selesan dahil kay Roxanne? sa page 8

30 LANG

Ex-spy chief called to Senate probe

VICE ADMIRAL TIRSO DANGA, FORMER WESTERN Command chief, has been asked to appear before the Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal, which begins on Friday.

However, Danga will have to seek approval from President Macapagal-Arroyo to appear at the hearing, as required by Executive Order No. 464 and Memorandum Circular 108, said Armed Forces spokesperson Col Bartolome Bacarro.

"We will seek clearance from the Chief Executive for the attendance of any officers in any such hearing," Bacarro told reporters yesterday.

Danga was the head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces (ISAFP), whose agents

supposedly tapped into the phone conversations of Ms Arroyo and heard her ask former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano about "the additional 1 million votes" for her in the 2004 elections.

Danga, who retires on Sept. 24, relinquished his post as the chief of the Wescom in Palawan last June.

The AFP's Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA) received the Senate invitation for Danga last

Monday.

Bacarro said the OLA will draft a letter to the President in collaboration with the Judge Advocate General (Jago). The letter will be signed by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Esperon himself was among the military officers mentioned in the controversial Garci tapes. Bacarro reiterated that while the Supreme Court has declared EO 464 unconstitutional,

there are certain provisions in it that the high court deemed legal.

One of these was the President's right to ban executive officials from appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Generals, flag officers and other officers of the Armed Forces are among officials covered by the ban.

Memorandum Circular 108

contains the guidelines on the appearance of officials of the executive department before Congress. It states that all invitations and pertinent documents be forwarded to the President through the Executive Secretary.

The President will then consider whether the subject matter of the inquiry is an aid of legislation or falls within the scope of executive privilege, according to the circular. *Nikko Dixon*

Executive privilege can block probe, says Miriam

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

EVEN WITHOUT EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 464, President Macapagal-Arroyo can still block Cabinet members' and top military officials' appearing before a Senate investigation into the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal by invoking her constitutional right to executive privilege.

"The Supreme Court merely invalidated EO 464. It never invalidated the constitutionally based doctrine of executive privilege," said Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, a constitutional law expert.

Santiago defined executive privilege as the President's power to withhold information on state secrets covering diplomatic, military, foreign relations and other sensitive national security issues.

"Executive privilege is not mentioned in the Philippine or US Constitutions, but it is accepted as constitutional. Both countries have applied the doctrine in a line of cases," she said in a privilege speech.

Revisiting 'Hello Garci'

The Senate this week decided to revisit the Hello Garci controversy, assigning the committees on defense, accountability and constitutional amendments and revision of codes and laws to conduct a probe.

The could set up another Senate showdown with Malacañang as Cabinet officials and military officials are likely to be summoned to testify on the alleged wiretapping operation by the Armed Forces intelligence services during the 2004 elections.

Santiago said the Supreme Court, in its *Senate vs. Ermita* decision, "merely declared EO 464 as invalid because it made only an implicit claim of executive privilege."

That fault can be corrected by this time making "a formal, explicit claim of privilege," the senator said.

Another reason the high court struck down EO 464 was that it was a general or blanket prohibition on all Cabinet members and other high officials from testifying in Congress.

"That fault could also be corrected by specifying the facts which make the information a confidential state secret for the particular official," Santiago said.

Round 2

Santiago said that in the later case of *Gudani vs. Senga* in 2006, the Supreme Court ruled that to prevent military officials from testifying in Congress, the President does not even have to claim executive privilege because she is already the Commander in Chief.

"If the President is adamant, her people could be cited for contempt, but it is possible that the corresponding warrant of arrest may not be served, since the president has the entire Armed Forces behind her," Santiago said.

But the senator did not discount the possibility of a second round of a legal battle at the Supreme Court between Malacañang and the Senate on the issue of congressional access to executive branch officials.

"Let's wait for developments. If it cannot be helped, maybe we'll see Senate versus Ermita Part 2," she said.

Santiago and other administration senators have warned their colleagues of the legal implications of possessing and playing information that had been illegally obtained such as the private conversation between the President and former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.



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DID YOU KNOW

AMERICAN architect Daniel Burnham was born on Sept. 4, 1846 in New York. During the American occupation of the Philippines, he designed the cities of Manila and Baguio, which now has a park named after him.

In his 1905 proposal for Manila, Burnham suggested the development of waterways for transportation, the construction of parks and the provision for summer resorts. His plans for the city, however, were not fully implemented.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

UP college drops student as council prexy

Expulsion from university looms for frat recruiter of alleged hazing victim

By Jeannette I. Andrade, Margaux C. Ortiz, Tj Burgonio and Norman Bordadora

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL College of Public Administration and Governance yesterday stripped Ariel Paolo Ante, the president of its student council, of his position and recommended his expulsion from the university for his suspected involvement in the hazing death of Cris Anthony Mendez.

In an order signed by NCPAG Dean Alex Brillantes Jr., the faculty council asked UP authorities "to exhaust all legal and administrative means to expel Mr. Ante from the university."

The resolution was reached after the faculty council, headed by Brillantes, withdrew its recognition of Ante as chair of the NCPAG student council for loss of confidence and dereliction of duty.

"Mr. Ante has failed to exercise principled and moral leader-

ship by his absence during the critical days after the death of an NCPAG student, by his inability to uphold student welfare, by his failure to mobilize the NCPAG Student Council to collectively respond to the death of a student council official, and by his deafening silence and unexplained absence," the NCPAG resolution said.

"The council condemns this behavior as not only irresponsible but also as an obstruction of justice," it added.

Mendez, like Ante, was an NCPAG student and a member of the college's student council. He was also the college representative to the UP Student Council.

Mendez was brought to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City on Aug. 27 where he was pronounced dead on arrival. An autopsy report revealed that he had been beaten up badly, bolstering initial suspicions that his death could have resulted from initiation rites allegedly conducted by the Sigma Rho fraternity for neophytes.

Ante, a Sigma Rho member, reportedly recruited Mendez to join the fraternity.

No contact

Brillantes said Ante had not made any effort to contact or talk to them since news about Mendez's death broke out.

Once expelled, Ante would not be able to enroll in any UP campus nationwide, he added.

"We want to issue a very strong statement that violence is not tolerated in our university," Brillantes said.

He told the INQUIRER that Ante had been recommended for suspension before for his alleged involvement in a fraternity rumble last July.

"That recommendation has not been carried out because we wanted to afford him due process. But this time, we sought legal advice and we were given the go-ahead," the dean said.

The UP Alumni Association, meanwhile, has offered its help to any person who may have vital information that could lead to the arrest of the people responsible for the death of Mendez.

"The senseless loss of life of Cris Mendez, who held much promise for his family and this nation, brings to the fore the need for a strict implementation of the Anti-Hazing Law. It like-

wise calls for the highest degree of vigilance among university authorities, members of the faculty and the student body so that any form of violence and other illegal activities of fraternities and sororities may be stopped or prevented effectively," the UPAA board of directors said in a statement.

They also called on all fraternities and sororities and other student organizations to "stop, condemn and never countenance violence and other barbaric activities" and to "adhere to the rule of law and civil order."

Fraternities in universities thrive on the "generous support" of influential alumni and violence continues because it's part of a fraternity's unspoken standard, activist priest Fr. Robert Reyes said.

"Working within and beyond

the universities, colleges and schools is the Frat Alumni. These are the graduates who have left the university and now occupy rather influential and prestigious positions in society," he said in a statement issued from Hong Kong.

"Many of these older men claiming to be gentlemen are quite dangerous. The fraternity officers keep close ties with them and are quite willing and happy to do so because of the generous support that consequently flows," said Reyes, who served as UP parish priest from 1996 to 2003.

A prominent member of the Sigma Rho Fraternity, meanwhile, said that there was still no proof that the organization was involved in Mendez's death.

"There is no concrete evidence that the death of the UP student was caused by the fraternity's initiation rites," Iloilo Vice Gov. Rolox Suplico said.

Doc, fratmen in alleged hazing case no-shows at NBI

Pasig City brings tax claim to SC

By Tina G. Santos

THE DOCTOR WHO BROUGHT suspected hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center was a no-show at the National Bureau of Investigation yesterday.

Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., assistant chief of the VMMC ophthalmology department had given his assurance to the National Bureau of Investigation that he would appear at the bureau after he was served with a subpoena the other day.

Instead, Cruz sent his lawyer, Rafael Armovit, to the NBI.

"The doctor could not make it today so I came in his behalf. We will be submitting his statement to the NBI. If you want to know anything, ask the NBI," he told reporters shortly after he met briefly with Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division, who was tasked to handle the case.

"He has a right to privacy," Armovit said when asked why his client did not show up. He clarified, however, that Cruz was not hiding from authorities.

Asis said he expects Cruz to submit his affidavit to the bureau within the week. "He needs to swear to his statement



DR. DAPHNE Gascon (left), who examined hazing victim Cris Anthony Mendez when he was brought to the Veterans Memorial Center, arrives at the National Bureau of Investigation with her lawyer as Rafael Armovit (right), the counsel of another VMMC doctor, Dr. Francisco Cruz Jr., talks to reporters. Cruz was the one who took Mendez to the hospital.

before the NBI," he added.

Also at the bureau yesterday was Dr. Daphne Gascon, the VMMC doctor who examined Mendez when he was brought to the hospital by Cruz.

Accompanied by her lawyer, Freddie Lilagan, Gascon submitted a statement to the NBI but refused to answer questions from the media.

Special Investigator III Roger LA Sususco of the NBI-ATD said Gascon confirmed that she was the one who declared Mendez

dead.

"She said that she noticed Mendez had several hematoma all over his body—in the arms, legs and feet. She did not notice any open wound, though," Sususco said.

Asis explained that Gascon's statement was significant as it corroborated VMMC security guard Jonathan Garduce's claim that it was Cruz who took Mendez to the hospital at around 1 a.m. last Aug. 27.

"She said she even asked

Cruz where he found Mendez and Cruz reportedly answered that the victim was only brought to him," Sususco said.

Cruz and Gascon were among several people subpoenaed by the NBI to shed light on the death of Mendez, a student of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Those who did not show up at the bureau yesterday included Andoni Santos, said to be a member of the Sigma Rho fraternity, the group Mendez re-

portedly joined as a neophyte before his death; Ariel Paolo Ante, the National College of Public Administration and Governance student council chair and fraternity member who was reportedly the last to be seen with Mendez when he was still alive.

"We will again summon them to appear on Friday," Asis said, adding that they would also invite four other people, including Raul Grapilon, the Sigma Rho fraternity president.

Pasig City brings tax claim to SC

By Kristine L. Alave

THE PASIG CITY GOVERNMENT will not back down from its fight to collect P435 million in franchise tax from the Manila Electric Co.

Mayor Robert Eusebio yesterday said the city government's legal team was preparing to elevate the case to the Supreme Court.

On Aug. 28, the Court of Appeals' 10th Division dismissed the Pasig City government's plea to collect P435 million from Meralco, representing the franchise tax the power firm supposedly owed the city from 1996 to 1999.

The appellate court's decision reversed and set aside the ruling of the Pasig City Regional Trial Court-Branch 70 which earlier affirmed the validity of the city government's demand for payment.

According to the appellate court, Pasig has no authority to legally assess and collect a franchise tax from Meralco because it did not enact an ordinance authorizing it to do so.



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Stop pampering illegal settlers, says MMDA's Fernando

By Allison W. Lopez
and Kristine L. Alave

ILLEGAL SETTLERS SHOULD NOT BE rewarded with new houses to discourage other people from following suit.

"It's as if we are rewarding people who squat. So we will see to it that only those who are qualified will be relocated," Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando told reporters yesterday at the Meet the Press Forum in Manila.

The MMDA dismantled shanties near waterways in Makati and Pasay last week as part of their flood control operations.

Residents living near rivers and creeks have been blamed for floods that occur in the area during a heavy downpour because they reportedly clog the waterways with garbage. Fernando said that if illegal

settlers are not rewarded with relocation sites, this would discourage other people from following their example.

According to him, the MMDA's "Bark Probinsya" program, which offers fare money to illegal settlers who volunteer to go home to their provinces, was still ongoing as it was also meant to counter a study that by 2020, 80 percent of people worldwide would be living in the cities.

Apart from clearing sewers, Fernando said they plan to remove obstructions on 3,000 kilometers of roads in Metro Manila to improve traffic flow.

The "Metro Clear Roads" project, he said, is aimed at opening more streets for the use of motorists to help solve the perennial traffic problem.

"We have about 5,000 km of roads in Metro Manila but only 2,000 km are being used. Most of these are turned into basket-

ball courts, you can even see furniture and washing machines on street," said Fernando.

He added that the Metro Manila Council, composed of 17 city mayors, including his known opponent, Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, has pledged to help in the project's implementation.

To prevent portions of Edsa from being converted into parking areas, Fernando said the

MMDA would install barriers on sidewalks to prevent cars and buses from using them.

"We are also elevating the sidewalks on Edsa to prevent vehicles from parking on them," he said.

Discipline, added Fernando, should be instilled among motorists, especially among bus drivers who take a long time maneuvering their vehicles from their garages on their way to Edsa.

Mar Roxas' early campaigning

WHAT ARE AGENTS OF THE NATIONAL Intelligence Coordinating Agency (NICA) doing at the piers?

The NICA, the country's counterpart of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is supposed to be interpreting reports collated from the government's various intelligence agencies and units.

Its main job is purely intelligence gathering, not going after criminals or smugglers.

But lately, NICA agents have allegedly been interfering in purely customs matters such as ordering the intelligence arm of the Bureau of Customs to seize cargoes containing highly dutiable goods.

My sources at the piers say that these agents, led by a guy with a Chinese-sounding surname, have been extorting money from brokers who facilitate the release from customs of valuable cargo.

NICA agents reportedly demand P5,000 for each container that comes out of the South Harbor and the Manila International Container Port, according to my spies.

These corrupt NICA agents have arrogated unto themselves the job of the Presidential Anti-

ON
TARGET

Ramon
Tulfo



Smuggling Group (PASG) that, so far, has kept its nose relatively clean, my sources said.

Why "relatively clean?" Because Undersecretary Antonio Villar, PASG chief, immediately grounds subordinates on mere suspicion they are conniving with smugglers.

Will somebody tell Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II the 2010 presidential election is still three years down the road?

He's much too early in the campaign trail. *Masyadong nagmamadali*, making him look like an eager-beaver kid.

Just so voters will not forget him, Roxas went to visit the public market in Baguio City to apparently remind market-goers and vendors that he's still "Mr. Palengke."

The grandson and name-

sake of the illustrious President Manuel Roxas has invited two warring TV comedian-hosts, Willie Revillame and Joey de Leon, to the august halls of the Senate.

The purported reason for the invitation is to shed light on the supposedly P2-million "Wowowee" game show scandal.

Aw c'mon, Mr. Senator, we know the real reason. Only those who were born yesterday wouldn't know your reason for initiating the Senate investigation of the alleged game-show scandal. Publicity mileage.

When an unexpected disaster strikes your home, like a member of the family having a stroke, what do you do?

You would know all the necessary steps to take before rushing your victim to the nearest hospital if you studied first aid at the Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC).

Sept. 8, Saturday is World First Aid Day. The rest of the month is National First Aid Month.

Your knowledge of first aid

will come in handy when you stumble upon a disaster and victims need immediate medical attention to survive.

If you're interested in learning first aid, call up telephone number 527-0000, local 128 or 129, or 527-9979, if you're in Manila.

You can inquire from your local Red Cross chapter if you're outside Manila.

Sen. Dick Gordon, PNRC chair, has set an ambitious goal: Having at least one member of every household learn first aid and know what to do in case of calamity.

That's one in every four persons (assuming there are four members in every family) being a Red Cross volunteer.

If you think that goal is unattainable, you don't know Dick Gordon.

As first chair of the government agency that runs the Subic Freeport, Gordon was able to convince his constituents in Olongapo City and Zamboanga to work as volunteers without pay until the Freeport became self-sufficient.

Father, son caught with illegal catch from Taguig City fishpen

By Julie M. Aurelio

A FISHERMAN AND HIS SON were caught yesterday with a net full of bangus (milkfish) by the caretaker of a Taguig City fishpen who alleged that the

pair stole the catch worth at least P375,000.

Enrique Paron was able to escape but his son, Randy, 19, was caught redhanded with the milkfish inside his boat, said SPO3 Eduardo Cabrera,

case investigator.

Fishpen owner Generazeth Capistrano said he was told about the incident a few hours after his caretaker caught the suspects.

An investigation showed that

at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday, the Parons were seen allegedly raiding the Capistrano fishpen at Tipas.

The fishpen is located along the Taguig City portion of Laguna Lake, where many other fish

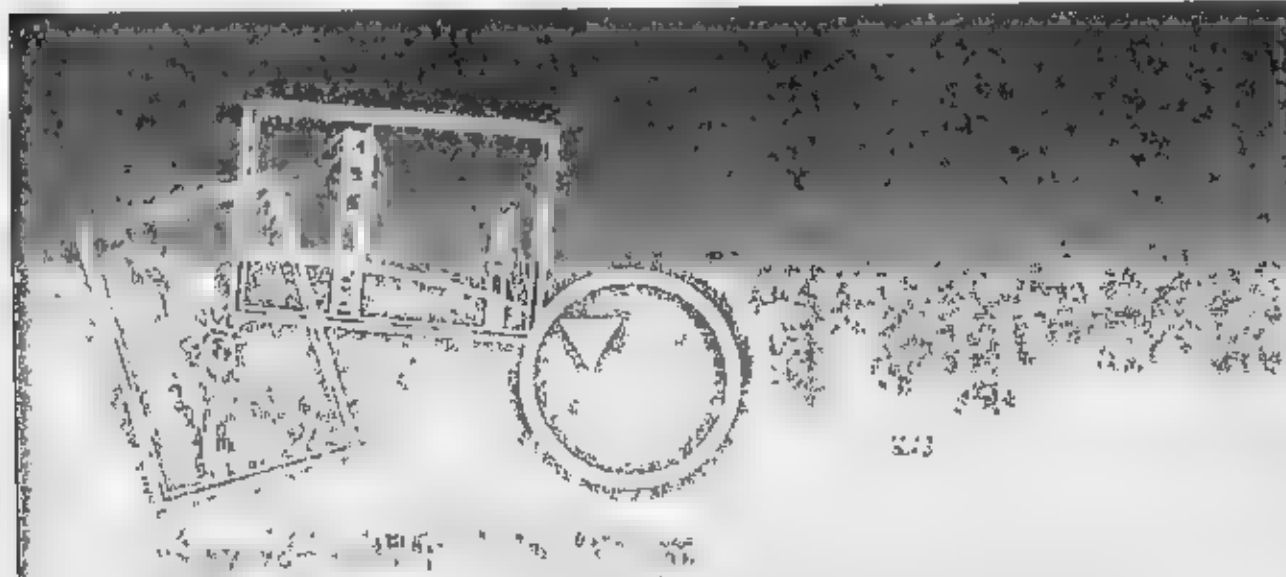
cages are located.

Rene Olvida, caretaker of the fishpen told police that he caught the Parons, residents of Napindan, in the act of loading the fish on board a boat which they apparently

planned to use to escape.

The elder Paron, however, was able to flee from his captor.

Police are preparing to file charges of qualified theft against the two suspects.



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Student killed for not giving up phone

By Tina G. Santos

AN 18-YEAR-OLD student who refused to give up his cell phone was shot and killed by a thief in Tondo, Manila the other night.

Paul Andrew Maganzo, a resident of Dandan Street in Tondo, was pronounced dead on arrival at the Mary Johnston Hospital for a gunshot wound in the back.

Police are looking for the suspect, identified as Ernesto Mata Jr. alias JR, who fled after the shooting.

Investigation showed that the incident happened at 11:15 p.m. near the suspect's house on Mata Street, also in Tondo.

The victim, accompanied by a friend identified only as a certain Alejandro, was texting on his cell phone when they passed by Mata.

Police said the suspect suddenly grabbed the victim's cell phone but the latter was able to hold on tightly to it as he tried to run away.

This prompted the suspect to pull out a gun and shoot the victim, hitting him in the back, police added, citing the testimony of witnesses.

METROBRIEFS

100 people lose homes in Antipolo fire

ABOUT 100 people were left homeless when a fire gutted a cluster of houses in Antipolo City at dawn yesterday. According to the fire department's report, the blaze started at 4:15 a.m. in a house owned by the Okinaka family in Muring Dilaw village and quickly spread to other shanties, which were mostly made of wood. Help did not arrive immediately. It took sometime for firefighters to reach the site since they got lost on their way to the village. F03 Gary Cantillon said the fire was caused by an unattended mosquito coil, which was placed near combustible materials. He said damage to the property was placed between P300,000 and P400,000. No one was injured or killed in the blaze. Cantillon said the displaced families were evacuated to the barangay hall and health center.

Kristine L. Alave

Man kills wife who tried to leave him

A 60-YEAR-OLD man shot his wife dead inside their house in Quezon City after she tried to leave him at dawn yesterday. Police promptly arrested Guillermo San Jose after their neighbors reported hearing a gunshot from the couple's house in Barangay San Agustin, Novaliches. They found his wife, Leticia, 46, with a gunshot wound on the forehead. She had died instantly, according to a report from the Novaliches Police station 4. It added that neighbors heard the couple arguing early in the morning with Leticia complaining about her husband's laziness and failure to land a job. San Jose, on the other hand, accused his wife of being unfaithful. The police report said that the argument became more heated and Leticia started packing up her things. But as she was gathering her belongings, San Jose allegedly took his cal. 38 revolver and shot her in the head at 4:20 a.m. Police said they would charge him with parricide.

Kenneth M. del Rosario

Women power to the rescue

AN all-women police team shot and killed a robber after he held up a call center agent in Quezon City. The police team, members of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit led by Senior Insp. Cherry Lou Donato, 23, also recovered the valuables of Michelle de los Santos. The victim said she had just stepped out of a restaurant in La Loma at 3:45 p.m. Monday when a man pointed a gun at her and grabbed her bag. He was about to flee when the victim screamed, catching the attention of the police team which was on patrol. The policewomen ran after the suspect but he fired on them, forcing them to fire back.

Jeannette I. Andrade

MMDA launches Traffic Radio on Sept. 24

FOR 17 hours every day, Metro Manila motorists can soon tune in to a radio station specially made for all 1.4 million of them. On Sept. 24, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority's Traffic Radio-1206 AM, a radio station devoted mostly to traffic updates and road conditions, will go on the air. The MMDA announced that it's all systems go for Traffic Radio which it described as "virtually a road show with lots of news, information, public service, entertainment and with every hour, on the hour traffic reports." MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said the station, which signs on at 4 a.m., will serve as a conduit between the agency and listeners about traffic and road conditions, as well as reminders for the convenience and safety of road users.

DJ Yap

Drama on breastfeeding to air over dzRH

ON Sept. 6 to 7, from 9 to 9:30 p.m., radio station dzRH will feature "Bukal sa Dibdib," a drama which will tackle the benefits of breastfeeding. Hosted by Cecile Guidote Alvarez, the program, launched by the World Health Organization, Department of Health and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the United Nations Children's Fund, is aimed at educating people about breastfeeding.

WORLD BRIEFS

Thaksin won't return to Thailand

LONDON—Former Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra is unlikely to return to Thailand in the near future because he fears for his safety, a statement said. A day after a Thai court issued a new set of arrest warrants for him and his wife, Thaksin's public relations company said the exiled former leader was innocent of any crime. "Dr. Thaksin maintains his innocence and states that he is unlikely to be able to return to Thailand in the short term because of personal safety issues," the Bell Pottinger Group said in an e-mail statement.

Mahathir undergoes 2nd bypass

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was recovering in intensive care on Wednesday after his second heart bypass surgery, the hospital treating him said in a statement. "Doctors are happy with his rate of progress, which is as expected in post-bypass surgery," Kuala Lumpur's National Heart Institute said. The 82-year-old former leader was admitted to the heart institute on Sunday after suffering two heart attacks in the past year and spent about five hours on the operating table on Tuesday. **AFP**

US adventurer Fossett missing

RENO—US millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett, who made record-breaking solo flights by plane and balloon, has disappeared over the Nevada desert after taking off in a small plane to scout sites for an attempt to set a world land speed record, authorities said on Tuesday. The Federal Aviation Administration said Fossett, 63, was reported missing on Monday night after taking off from a ranch in a single-engine aircraft in the morning. **Reuters**

Bomb kills 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A roadside bomb rocked an eastern Baghdad Shiite neighborhood early Wednesday, killing at least 11 people and injuring 19 others when it exploded next to buses used by morning commuters, police and hospital officials said. Blood stained the ground around a small crater caused by the bomb, which went off in the predominantly Shiite neighborhood of Baladiyat just before 8 a.m. Video from Associated Press Television News showed the scene strewn with broken glass and littered with people's shoes and other items. **AP**

Felix batters Nicaragua

MANAGUA—A furious Hurricane Felix on Tuesday left a trail of devastation in an already dirt-poor area of Nicaragua, killing at least four people, including a new-born baby, and destroying 5,000 homes. **AFP**



1ST KOREAN ASTRONAUT

South Korean robotics expert and former amateur boxing champion Ko San will be the country's first person in space when he flies on a Russian Soyuz capsule to the International Space Station next year. The 30-year-old Ko, who works at the Korea Aerospace Research Institute, beat out Yi Soo-yeon, a 29-year-old female mechanical engineer, following performance and other tests during training in Russia. **AP**

Sept. 11 memorial shows WTC pieces

NEW YORK—VISITORS to the New York City memorial for the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks will see two huge pieces of the World Trade Center's original steel facade inside a glass-walled pavilion that leads them to the museum.

In new drawings released on Tuesday by the National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum, the columns—each up to 90 feet (27.4 meters) high—that stood near the base of the twin towers rise next to a stairway that leads visitors down to the museum.

Museum officials are still considering what other artifacts to showcase at the Sept. 11 memorial and where to put them. The site's original plan called for iconic artifacts from the towers to be displayed aboveground. A group of Sept. 11 victims' family members had lobbied for years to have pieces of the steel facade at street level.

The columns are among more than 1,000 pieces of steel from the fallen towers in storage at a hangar at John F. Kennedy International Airport. **AP**

N. Korea closer to being delisted

WASHINGTON—NORTH KOREA is closer to being removed from the US state sponsors of terrorism list following commitments to end its nuclear weapons program, a US official said on Tuesday.

US nuclear envoy Christopher Hill told the North Koreans at a Geneva meeting at the weekend that there were only a few more issues that need to be resolved before Pyongyang's removal from the blacklist, the official said.

"My understanding is that he made it pretty clear to them that the remaining issues—at least on the terrorism list piece of this—are not that extensive," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said the outstanding issues included North Korea's explanation over its alleged involvement in the 1987 midair bombing of Korean Airlines Flight 858, which killed all 115 people aboard.

"What I also am trying to get away from is the notion that this

is purely going to be, 'we just decide we are going to do it and they don't have to answer the questions about (the KAL issue) and couple of other things that got them on the list in the first place,' the official said.

The State Department says in its website that North Korea, designated in January, 1988 as a state sponsor of terrorism, "is not known to have sponsored any terrorist acts since the bombing of a Korean Airlines flight in 1987."

But it noted that the fate of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea remained an unresolved and "contentious" issue. It also said that four Japanese Red Army members remained in North Korea after being linked to a jet hijacking in 1970.

Tom Casey, a US State Department spokesperson, said US government departments were working on a process to prepare for any eventual removal of North Korea from the terror list.

"I know there have been dis-

cussions about this," said Casey, though he declined to elaborate in detail. "Obviously, they involve a variety of different government agencies," he said.

Casey said that there were a series of legal standards, both for getting on and off the US terror list, adding that US laws and regulations had to be fully met before Pyongyang was removed from the list.

He hinted that any mechanism or timing for such removal could be discussed under a six-nation meeting among nuclear envoys expected this month in Beijing.

North Korean state media reported on Monday that the United States had agreed to strike Pyongyang from its blacklist of states that sponsor terrorism during Hill's talks in Geneva with his Pyongyang counterpart Kim Kye Gwan.

This claim was swiftly denied by the US side. Hill said on Tuesday that a delisting depends on further steps towards denuclearization. **AFP**

'Chemical Ali' gets death penalty

BAGHDAD—IRAQ'S TOP COURT said on Tuesday it has confirmed the death sentence on "Chemical Ali" and two other cohorts of Saddam Hussein convicted of genocide and they will be hanged within 30 days.

"The Iraqi Supreme Court has confirmed the death sentence on Ali Hassan al-Majid, Sultan Hashim al-Tai and Hussein Rashid al-Tikriti," court chief Judge Aref Shaheen told a press conference.

Asked when the three would be executed, Shaheen replied: "According to Iraqi law, sentence must be carried out within 30

days no more."

Majid, widely known as "Chemical Ali" for using poison gas against ethnic Kurds, was the executed Iraqi dictator's most notorious henchman. Tai was his defense minister and Tikriti was armed forces deputy chief of operations.

The three were sentenced to death on June 24 after being found responsible for the slaughter of thousands of Kurds in the so-called Anfal campaign of 1988.

An estimated 182,000 Kurds were killed and 4,000 villages wiped out in the brutal campaign

of bombings, mass deportation and gas attacks.

"Thousands of people were killed, displaced and disappeared," Iraqi High Tribunal chief judge Mohammed al-Oreibi al-Khafah said after he had passed sentence in June.

"They were civilians with no weapons and nothing to do with war," Majid, 66, was the last of the six defendants to learn his fate in the Anfal case—the second trial of former Saddam cohorts on charges of crimes against humanity since the fall of the feared regime in 2003. **AFP**

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The WORLD

Editor Luverna B. Gueco

Germany, Denmark foil terror plots

3 arrested for plotting attacks on Frankfurt airport, US base

BERLIN—GERMAN AUTHORITIES SAID ON Wednesday they had arrested three suspected Islamic terrorists for allegedly plotting attacks on Frankfurt International Airport, one of Europe's busiest, along with nearby Ramstein Air Base, a key US and Nato military hub.

Prosecutors said they had arrested three suspected members of "an Islamic-motivated terrorist organization," but gave no further details. German Defense Minister Franz Josef Jung told ARD broadcaster the three men were suspected of targeting the airport and base.

"There was an imminent threat," Jung said, but declined to elaborate. The Sudwestrundfunk public broadcaster said two of the suspects had German citizenship while the third was Pakistani.

Prosecutors in Karlsruhe said the arrests took place on Tuesday afternoon, and that police had also carried out searches across the country. The suspects are to be brought before a judge later Wednesday.

German and US officials have warned of the possibility of a terrorist attack, and security measures have been increased.

Navy Capt. Jeff Gradeck, spokesperson for the US military's European Command in Stuttgart said German authorities had contacted them concerning the alleged plot, but had no further information.

"We extend our gratitude to Germany for their efforts in protecting us," Gradeck said.

The leading Der Spiegel week-

ly said in its online edition that the group has been under observation by German authorities for many months and all three men are considered radical Islamists with contacts to terror cells abroad.

Authorities decided to move in on the group after they were observed moving a stock of chemicals that could be used for making a bomb from one storehouse to another, Spiegel said.

Germany, which did not send troops to Iraq, has largely been spared terrorist attacks like the train and subway bombings in Madrid and London—although its involvement in the attempt to stabilize Afghanistan against Islamic insurgents has led to fears it might be targeted.

In July 2006 two gas bombs were placed on commuter trains but did not explode. Officials said that attack was motivated by anger over cartoons portraying the Prophet Muhammad in a Danish newspaper. Several suspects are on trial in Lebanon, and a Lebanese man has been charged in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said in an interview released on Wednesday that German troops would remain in Afghanistan for several more years, despite recent setbacks in the region.



GERMAN Defense Minister Peter Struck, left, and Governor of German federal state Rhineland-Palatinate Kurt Beck, right, are seen during their visit at the US Airbase of Ramstein, southern Germany, in this file photo.

"To walk away would send the wrong signal," Merkel told N-24 television.

Magnus Norell, at the Swedish Defense Research Agency, said while Germany's mission in Afghanistan could be a motive for a terrorist attack, a flood of other factors could also play in.

"It could be discontent with Germany, or even western Europe as a whole. It's really not that easy as to say that this (Afghanistan) would be the reason for it."

Opened in 1953, Ramstein is one of the best-known US Air Force bases worldwide because it serves as a major conduit for US troops and materiel moving in and out of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. It is a key transit point for injured coalition troops from Iraq and Afghanistan who are flown there to be taken to the nearby military hospital at Landstuhl.

Besides US personnel, Canadian, German, British, French, Belgian, Czech, Norwegian, Dutch

and Danish forces are also located there.

Frankfurt International Airport is Europe's third-busiest airport, handling hundreds of in- and outbound flights to and from the Americas, Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe. In July, a record 5.2 million passengers arrived or departed from the airport, a new record. In 2005, more than 52.2 million passengers came through the airport, which is also a major cargo hub.

8 suspects nabbed in Denmark

COPENHAGEN—DANISH POLICE said on Tuesday they had averted a terrorist attack with the arrest overnight of eight men allegedly linked to al-Qaida and in possession of explosives.

The director general of the Danish intelligence service PET, Jakob Scharf, said the arrests near Copenhagen had "prevented a terrorist attack." "We would describe the main suspects as militant Islamists with international contacts, including leading members of al-Qaida," Scharf told a press conference.

Scharf would not disclose any information about the possible target of the planned attack, but said there was "no direct link" to Denmark's military involvement in Iraq or Afghanistan.

There was no connection either to the Prophet Muhammad cartoons that were printed in a Danish newspaper in September 2005 and sparked angry Muslim protests around the world, he said.

PET said the eight were "suspected of preparing a terrorist act with the use of explosives."

Police raided 11 homes in the early hours of Tuesday, after an investigation that had been underway for several months and during which PET cooperated with foreign intelligence agencies. AFP

Woman 'cured' by Mother Teresa lives in poverty

Mattel makes 3rd Chinese toys recall

DANOGRAM, INDIA—AN INDIAN woman whose claimed miracle cure from cancer led to Mother Teresa being thrust toward sainthood has accused Catholic nuns of abandoning her to a life of misery.

The angry comments came as the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by the Albanian-born nun in the eastern Indian metropolis of Calcutta in 1950, prepared to mark Wednesday's 10th anniversary of the heroine's death.

"I will not go to any church," 40-year-old Manica Besra told AFP, squatting on the floor of her thatched and mud house in Danogram village, 500 kilometers from the eastern city of Calcutta, where Mother Teresa worked.

"I will remember Mother Teresa on her death anniversary at home with my children and husband," she added.

It was Besra's alleged miracle cure from a "lumpy" tumor on Sept. 6, 1998—a year after the nun's death—that led to the Vatican clearing the way for Mother Teresa's beatification in October 2003.

Usually, the journey from death to beatification to sainthood takes decades if not centuries in the Catholic Church, which has 1.1 billion followers worldwide.

"My hut was frequented by nuns of the Missionaries of Charity before the beatification of Mother Teresa," Besra said.

"They made of lot of promises to me and assured me of financial help for my livelihood and my children's education," she claimed, adding that she was also escorted to the Vatican for the beatification ceremony.

"After that, they forgot me," said Besra, tears welling up in her eyes.

With the small piece of family land mortgaged to a village money lender years ago, Besra said she is struggling to survive.

"I am now living in penury. My husband is sick. My children have stopped going to school as I have no money. I have to work in the fields to feed my husband and five children," said Besra, clad in a torn yellow sari.

Thousands pay homage to Mother Teresa

CALCUTTA—THOUSANDS of devotees thronged to the headquarters of the Missionaries of Charity in the Indian city of Calcutta on Wednesday to offer prayers for Mother Teresa on the 10th anniversary of her death.

The doors of Mother House, where the ethnic Albanian nun lived and died, were thrown open at dawn and hundreds of slum dwellers from the city walked in.

Holding candles, they knelt before Mother Teresa's tomb in one of the sprawling halls of the building and prayed as nuns clad in traditional white saris with blue borders joined them.

"She was a great social worker with a strong heart to help all the poor. She is God's secretary," said Pushpa, a middle-aged woman who came all the way from the southern state of Kerala to pray for her cancer-stricken mother.

A few dozen people from a rationalist society shouted slogans outside, saying Mother Teresa should not be portrayed as a saint—reflecting criticism in some Indian circles over her opposition to birth control and abortion.

Calcutta was also painted as a pit of misery and suffering, critics argued, ignoring its long history of intellectual and artistic creativity.

Mother Teresa made Calcutta her home and opened several homes, including one for those who were old and dying and the other for destitute children.

Archbishop of Calcutta, Lucas Sircar, led a special Mass where rich and poor sat together in prayer.

As people sang hymns, Sister Nirmala, the superior general of the order, held her palms together, occasionally waved at followers.



MISSIONARIES of Charity nuns light lamps on the tomb of Mother Teresa, the founder of the order, on her 10th death anniversary which was observed as 'Happy Feast Day' in Calcutta, India, on Wednesday, Sept. 5.

She succeeded the ailing Mother Teresa six months before she died, aged 87, on Sept. 5, 1997.

"I am feeling deep joy and gratitude remembering Mother Teresa's presence today among us," she said as she placed a candle on the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize winner's tomb.

The doors of Mother House remained open throughout the day and hundreds of people walked in with palms pressed together, some carrying flowers.

"Mother helped me get a job

and survive when there was nothing to look forward to in life," said Harihar Sahu, a blind man. "I hope she is made a saint soon."

Letters written by Mother Teresa to her colleagues and superiors over 66 years reveal she sometimes doubted God and tormented about her faith.

The collection of letters compiled by an advocate for her sainthood was published on Tuesday under the title "Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light."

Reuters

NEW YORK—TOYMAKER Mattel Inc. on Tuesday announced a third recall of Chinese-made toys, saying it would take back more than 800,000 units globally that contain "impermissible" levels of lead.

In total, 522,000 US toys and 322,000 outside the United States are being recalled. The toys were shipped between Aug. 3, 2006, and July 31, 2007, the company said.

The latest recall involves three Fisher-Price toy models and eight Barbie brand playsets. No Barbie dolls were included.

Mattel instructs people to go to its website (www.service.mattel.com) to establish whether they own an affected toy. After they fill out a form and send back the affected parts, Mattel will send them replacement and bonus parts.

The recall arose out of Mattel's investigation of its toys manufactured by vendors in China. In the last five weeks, the company al-

ready had announced two recalls of millions of Chinese toys due to excessive amounts of lead paint and other dangers.

A spate of toy recalls has sparked concern over the quality of products made in China. The US House of Representatives' subcommittee on commerce, trade and consumer protection is to hold a Sept. 19 hearing on how to protect US children from imported products containing lead paint.

Lead paint has been linked to health problems in children, including brain damage.

Mattel chief executive Robert Eckert said he could not guarantee there would be no further toy recalls, but stressed that the testing of products it promised after the first major recall on Aug. 1 was now complete.

"You can never say never, that there won't be more (recalls)," said Eckert in a telephone interview on Tuesday.

Reuters

Dinosaurs wiped out by asteroid breakup

PARIS—THE EXTINCTION OF the dinosaurs 65 million years ago can be traced to a collision between two monster rocks in the asteroid belt nearly 100 million years earlier, scientists report on Wednesday.

The smash drove a giant sliver of rock into Earth's path, eventually causing the climate-changing impact that ended the reign of the dinosaurs and enabled the rise of mammals—including, eventually, us.

Other asteroid fragments smashed into the Moon, Venus and Mars, pocking their faces with mighty craters, the US and Czech researchers believe.

Mixing skills in time travel, fig-saw-making and carbon chemistry, the trio carried out a computer simulation of the jostling among orbital rubble left from the

building of the Solar System.

The sleuths were guided by an intriguing clue—a large asteroid called (298) Baptistina, which shares the same orbital track as a group of smaller rocks.

Turning the clock back, the simulation found that the Baptistina bits not only fitted together, they were also remnants of a giant parent asteroid, around 170 kilometers across, that once cruised the innermost region of the asteroid belt.

Around 160 million years ago—the best bet in a range of 140-190 million years—this behemoth was whacked by another giant some 60 km across.

From this soundless collision was born a huge cluster of rocks, including 300 bodies larger than 10 km and 140,000 bodies larger than 1 km.

AFP



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SPORTS

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Rafa,
Serena
head for
exits /A24



Eagles battle Maroons

THE ATENEO BLUE EAGLES will be keeping this in mind when they take on the languishing University of the Philippines Maroons today in the UAAP men's basketball competition at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

And Ateneo coach Norman Black maintains that the 2 p.m. match will be no scrimmage for the Eagles' eagerly awaited showdown against rival La Salle Green Archers on Sunday.

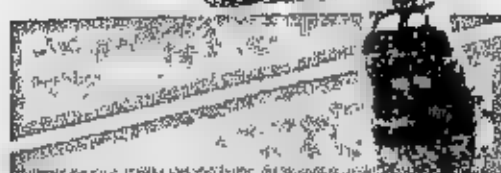
"It's a game," said Black. "Like Adamson, they have nothing to lose and they gave us a difficult time. UP will be the same thing if we don't come and play. It's important that we establish a certain level of play."

A victory will assure the Eagles at least a playoff for a Final Four berth.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	12	0
La Salle	9	3
Ateneo	7	4
UST	7	5
FEU	6	6
NU	4	7
Adamson	1	10
UP	0	11

GAMES TODAY (Ninoy Aquino Stadium)
 2 p.m.—Ateneo vs UP
 4 p.m.—National vs Adamson

EAGLES/A24



EMMAN Monfort (front) and the Ateneo Blue Eagles hope to ride the momentum that started with a win over Japs Cuan and the UST Tigers.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Two young prospects in Pacman undercard

CEBU CITY—TWO topnotch prospects from North Cotabato will be seeing action in the undercard of the Oct. 6 rematch between Filipino boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao and Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas.

"I promise to prioritize these two boxers in the card," said Pacquiao. "When I fight Barrera, they will also be fighting in the undercard."

The boxers are unbeaten prospects Glenn Gonzales and Jundy Maraon.

Gonzales (6-0, 4 KOs) is an exciting toe-to-toe featherweight banger whose fight style has been likened to that of Pacquiao.

Maraon (10-0-1, 8 KOs) is a super bantamweight upstart who hits like a mule and has skills backed by a solid amateur background.

"These two fighters benefited a lot from the training program brought in by Cuban coach Espinosa," said North Cotabato vice governor Manny Piñol.

Gonzales and Maraon have been training the last two weeks in Cebu. **Salven Lagumbay, contributor**

HAIRLOSS EXPERTS IN AMERICA REVEAL FRIGHTENING FACTS

Men Going Bald Lose One Hair Every 15 Minutes!

Recent research from top trichologists in the USA reveals that the rate of a man's hairloss can reach about 35,000 hairs a year on a baldness-prone head. That means, when receding and thinning are at their peak, a man on his way to baldness is losing one hair approximately every fifteen minutes!

As most men prior to experiencing any hairloss have a total scalp cover of 100,000 to 150,000 hairs or more, a mere four disappearing every hour don't get noticed - until it's too late. Based on these figures it's easy to see how it takes only 3-5 years for a 30-year old man to be bald by the time he's 34 - if he does nothing about it.

Why is it that so many men let themselves go bald - when there's enough time at the beginning of the hairloss process to get expert advice and the right trichological treatments? It seems there are a number of reasons, the main one being unawareness of what is available at professional hair-and-scalp care centres. The best known is Svenson, which has been in the business of controlling hairloss for over twenty-five years across Asia and around the world. Svenson is where people go when they don't want to go bald.

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Without treatment this man will likely be totally bald in just 2-3 years.

of sense to call Svenson for an appointment. It costs nothing to have a qualified trichologist analyze your hair and scalp. You'll learn the cause of your hairloss and what the right treatments can do. And you'll discover how your hair and scalp can be optimized for maximum growth potential.

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Milo elims to Naga City this Sunday

AFTER SORTIES THROUGH THE VISAYAS, the 31st National Milo Marathon shifts its course to Luzon in the Bicol region with its first stop on Sunday in Naga City hosted by Mayor Jesse M. Robredo.



HERMAN Suizo, the 1997 Milo Marathon champion, joined the 21K race of the 31st National Milo Marathon Iloilo leg last Sunday. Suizo, 47, placed 9th with a time of 1:23:05.

The Visayas elimination runs, which visited Tagbilaran, Tacloban, Cebu, Dumaguete, Roxas City, and Iloilo last Sunday, attracted 42,253 runners, including luminaries like Senator Pia Cayetano in Cebu on Aug. 12 and Rep. Raul Gonzalez Jr. in Iloilo last weekend.

According to local organizer Pedro Lee, chair of the Naga City Sports Commission, 4,000 runners coming from the six provinces comprising the Bicol Region are expected to answer the starting gun at Plaza Quezon at 6 a.m. to be fired off by Robredo.

The Naga City leg is the 15th leg in this year's 24-leg Milo Marathon nationwide elimination run held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel-Manila, Adidas, and the Department of Tourism. The race is one of the highlights of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia.

The top three finishers in the men's and women's divisions of the 21K elimination run will receive P10,000, P6,000, and P4,000, respectively, plus trophies and will advance to the 42K national finals slated on Nov. 18 at the Quirino Grandstand.

"I expect an exciting race because top runners in the region are seeing action for the top prize and the opportunity to compete in the 42 kilometers Milo national finals" said AVP for Milo Sports Pat Goc-Ong.



MARK Fernando (left) and Jonel Ababa continue to pace the grueling eliminations for the Philippine team.

Ababa, Fernando cop RP golf slots

By Musong R. Castillo

SILANG, CAVITE—DECEIVINGLY long and a wizard around the greens, reed-thin Jonel Ababa again stood out on another testing day at The Riviera's Langer layout to take a piece of the lead with two rounds left in the NGAP National Qualifiers.

The 23-year-old Ababa, the first winner of the National Caddies' Open, fired a two-over-par 73 to pull even with fellow Calatagan bet Mark Fernando as they all but put a lock on two of six RP Team slots being contested.

Fernando, one of the foremost products of the NCO program being run by the Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation of Tommy Manotoc, stayed afloat despite a 76 mainly caused by two triple bogeys on a humid day.

The frontrunners have identical 108-hole 434 total going into the last two days of the marathon eliminations.

Also virtually assured of a place in the RP team taking part in three important international tournaments this year was Ferdinand Aunzo, who fired a 75 to be in solo third at 435.

Anthony Fernando, Mark's cousin

who held the lead in the first two rounds at the Couples course last week, still couldn't check his slide, turning in a fourth-straight over-par card—a 75—to be in fourth at 438.

The race for the last two slots became interesting, with amateur ace Jay Bayron still trying to regain sharp form and Michael Bibat, the big Asian Games bronze medal winner, in a heated battle.

Bibat shared the day's best round with Ababa and pulled even with Bayron, who shot a 74, at 439, just six strokes better than the seventh-running Gene Bondoc, who fired a 73 to stay alive.

Asiad champ Valle enters SMC 10-ball

GANDY VALLE, THE 1998 Asian Games 9-ball doubles gold medalist and Robert Gomez, the 2007 Norway Battle of Scandinavia 9-ball winner, head the cast in the first San Miguel Corporation (SMC) Scotch Doubles 10-ball event starting on Sept. 19 at the Elbowroom/Metro Walk in Pasig City.

The 30-year-old Valle will be teaming up with either Omar Ocampo or Michael Feliciano in the three-day event staking P140,000 to the winning pair.

"I'm already preparing hard for this tournament," said Valle in Filipino.

Gomez, 28, will be partnered by either Carlo Biado or Mike Takayama.

"Skill is of the essence in 10-ball, unlike the 9-ball where there's a bit of luck," said Gomez, who like Valle is a member of the Buggy promotion stable.

The pair of Antonio Gabica, and Renemar David, the 2006 Sydney World Junior quarter-finalist, also signified their intention to play.

Other entries include the pair of 2007 Korean Pro tour 9-ball champion Joven Bustamante and former snooker ace Benjie Guevarra and Negros Billiard Stable stalwarts Lee Vann Cortez and Ricky Zerna.

For details, call Jojo Jojo 09157008000, Valle 09169589897 and Jharome Pena at 09183942779.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor



VALLE



BIBAT

Rivilla still MPLFA head

BUSINESSWOMAN

Cathy Rivilla was unanimously re-elected to a two-year term as president of the Muntinlupa, Parañaque and Las Piñas Football Association during its general assembly meeting at the Sphere Gym in Muntinlupa City last weekend.

Also elected to the MPLFA board were Vernias, Wool Reyes, Mapi Duarte, Ric Ennis, Cyril Dofitas, Jojo Durian and Chito Manuel, who will also serve for two years.

Following her reelection and based on the MPLFA constitution and by-laws, Rivilla appointed Manuel as vice president, Reyes, general secretary, Venus, assistant general secretary, and Duarte, treasurer.

Rivilla, co-team manager of the national women's team, is also an official of the Philippine National Women's Football Association.

The 37-year-old Rivilla is one of two Filipino women match commissioners—the other being former Philippine Olympic Committee president Crispy Ramos—accredited by the International Football Federation or Fifa.

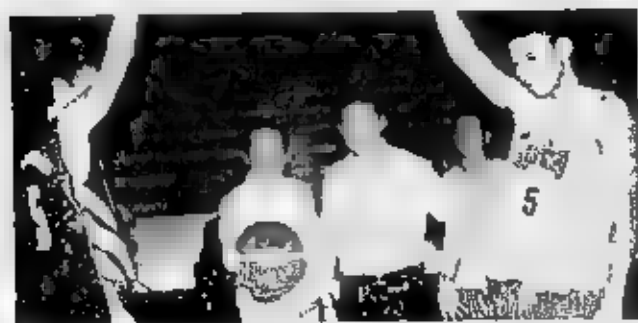
From 12 clubs, the MPLFA has grown to over 30 members.

The MPLFA girls squad won last year's National Under-17 tournament.



RIVILLA

Spring Oil dribblers trounce Vietnamese



MALABON City Mayor Tito Oreta gets set to toss the ball before the Malabon/Spring Cooking Oil-Vietnam game while Spring team owner and NBC president Tac Padilla looks on.

SPRING COOKING OIL ROUTED the visiting Vietnam national basketball team, 93-71, Tuesday in a goodwill game at the Malabon Sports Complex.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla raced to a 33-22 lead at the end of the first quarter and never looked back as veterans Nino Marquez and Larry Rodriguez tallied 20 points each.

The Vietnamese, coached by former Spring mentor Ricky

Magallanes, still groped for form as they stepped up their preparation for the Southeast Asian Games set this December in Thailand.

Malabon City Mayor Tito Oreta made the ceremonial toss and then went on to watch the home team plaster the visitors from start to finish.

But Tien Bang led the Vietnamese with 12 points while Tran Boan Mark Nguyen and Nguyen San Toh added 10 each.

"I'm happy with the boys' (Spring) showing," said Padilla, who is helping bankroll the Spring-NBC Selection's trip to Taiwan next month.

The scores:

MALABON-SPRING 93—Marquez 20, Rodriguez 20, Epondulian 14, De Castro 13, Reyes 11, Kalaw 8, Tajonera 4, Cuenca 3, Villamin 3, Inigo 2, Aguilar 2.

VIETNAM 71—Bui 12, Guyon 10, Tran 10, Tieu 8, Soam 8, Pham 6, Robignat 4, Tan 4, Nguyen T. 3, Du 2.

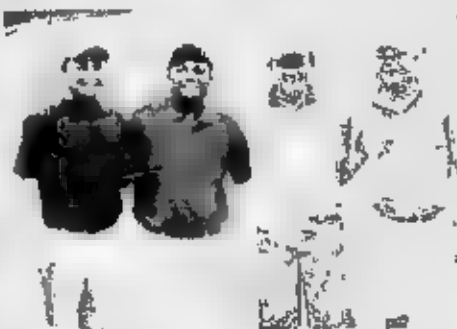
Quarters: 33-22, 51-41, 72-81 89-71

SPORTSWATCH

KidzHoops All-Sundays tourney set

THE ALL-SUNDAYS BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FOR KIDS' LEVELING day is set on Sept. 9 at the Dumiao Gym along Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City at 2 p.m. Registration opens at 1 p.m. The tournament proper starts Sept. 30 at the RRM Gym. The KidzHoops league now has three age group divisions, the 10 under, 12 under and 14 under. Boys and girls ages 8 to 14 are encouraged to join. The kids are assured of four league games and one tournament game. For inquiries, log-on to www.kidzhoops.com or call 3710639.

HOLE-IN-ONE: Mar Maron (third from left) of the Royal Okra Golf Club recently made an ace on the 176-yard hole No. 4 of Valley's South course using a 3-wood. With him are RJ Baretto, Joe Tayawa and Joey Razon.



First stag derby at Roligon today

ROLIGON UNFOLDS COCKPIT'S FIRST EVENT FOR THE 2007 STAGFIGHTING season unfolds today via the Stag Festival 5-stag derby. The 2-stag elimination round starts at 4 p.m. Round two sizzles on Saturday while the championship round takes place on Monday. Competitors include Nelson Uy, Meliton Guadra, Pax Cabrera, Ricky Peleja, James Uy and Raymond Burgos.

SJC Anniversary derby set Sept. 10

THE NUMBER OF CONFIRMED ENTRIES BALLOONED TO 146 AS OF YESTERDAY in connection with the SJC Anniversary 8-stag derby slated Sept. 10, 12 and 15 at San Juan Colliseum. The event dangles a guaranteed prize of P2 million. Host and SJC owner Rodolfo Pineda pegged the entry fee at P15,000. Meanwhile, the SJC Cockers Club 5-stag derby series starts on Saturday.



CLIMBERS: Pride and joy are etched on the faces of the winners of the Cali Party Responsibility Series wall climbing competition held Aug. 18 at the Power Up gym, Silver City, Pasig. The Cali Silver Cup went to the champion team while individual medals were awarded.

Clyde and Ezy, Mark win

CLYDE AND EZY OF RMF CHIEF OFFICER Cyrus Hao and Mark of Harry Soriano turned back their respective rivals start of the 2007 RMF Challenge Cup Tuesday at the Reyes gym in Mandaluyong.

Showing steely resolve, Clyde and Ezy repulsed Jethro of VP Dave Collina, 84-71, to begin its title campaign in the event supported by Royand Manchester Five Trading Corporation and organized by Metro Basketball under commissioner Nilo Fernandez.

Not to be outdone, Mark beat Apexabba Deo of Dennis Abarra in overtime, 55-52,

while Gigi Mendoza's Twinkel edged Lauderics Cavaliers of Eric Magtabog, 45-43.

The event's opening was graced by TV personalities led by Ruffa Mae Quinto, Ruston Padilla and PBA star Johnny Abanent.

The POC cheer dancers highlighted the opening with a breathtaking performance in front of the big crowd.

Games are held every Tuesday and Friday at the Reyes gym.

Metro Basketball is the leading organizer of corporate basketball. For details, call 4802093 or text 09179948408.

RP bets deliver Asian karting medals

THE JET RACING TEAM DELIVERED FOR the Philippines in the third leg of the 2007 Asian Karting Open Championship recently at the Sentul International Circuit in Bogor, Indonesia.

The Filipinos bagged three titles, a runner-up and a third place finish.

Team captain Javi Benitez, a Grade 7 student of Xavier School, powered Jet Racing's title haul by topping both the ROK Junior and the Formula 125 Junior events against foreign rivals Rio Haryanto and Senna Noor of Indonesia and Mitchell Gilbert of Malaysia.



JAVI Benitez (81) and Vencer John Suba on the way to a podium finish.

Influential Marho supports Lim's anti-bookie campaign

MANILA MAYOR ALFREDO LIM'S relentless drive against illegal bookies in local horse racing got a boost recently as top officials of the Metropolitan Association of Race Horse Owners Inc. (Marho) expressed their all-out support to the renewed campaign against the illegal betting trade.

In a recent dialog held at Manila City Hall, Mandaluyong City Mayor and Marho president Benhur Abalos and other Marho officials,

thanked Lim for boosting the anti-bookie drive in Manila, immediately resulting to noticeable gains for the local horse racing industry.

"We would like to express our appreciation to Mayor Lim for intensifying the campaign against the illegal bookies, coming in the heels of a huge drop in regulated horse racing sales over the past month," said Abalos.

Last week, Lim ordered the renewed crackdown on illegal bookies in Manila.

Race 1—(Tri)—Vivara (3), Ocean Deep (6), Million Dollar (1).
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Carry Over (6), Mean Machine (1), Patricia's pet (4), Mahogany (5).
Race 3—(Tri)—Regent Skipper (3), When We're Flying (2), Royal Fleet (4).
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Mary Jane Bomb (1), Cool Turner/Tatanka (3), Gelay's Charm (2), Smooth Strike (6).
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Sound of Silence (4), Sunlin (5), Sharp Cookie (6), Santly Path (2).
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Arctic Desert (1), Big Spender (4), Mighty Mare (5), Rapid Fire (3).
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Camberwell Beauty (1), Lord Go (3), Common Goal (6), Take Ten (7).
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Bootlegs (1), Scud Missile (3), Batang Westside (8), Deep Rising/Dew Rising (7), Sultier's Royal (10), Storm (4).

BY TOP CHOICE

Kobe back in a flash this time

WHEN HE FIRST came to Manila nine years ago, Kobe Bryant was only 19 years old and a sophomore in the NBA. (See related story on A24)

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

It was August, I distinctly remember, and his 20th birthday was only a few days away.

Kobe was a big, big hit in Manila. He made the strongest impact among Pinoy NBA fans because he was game, had absolutely no airs about him and was very accommodating.

At the slightest prodding, Kobe would show off his moves, his high-flying slam dunks, to insatiable fans who couldn't seem to have enough him. He even played one-on-one with our PBA cagers.

Kobe was a publicist's dream. People went crazy everywhere he went. He adored children and would go out of his way to entertain them.

He made an appearance at Don Bosco High School in Makati where he played with the kids, ala Globe Trotter, danced with them and even dined with them. Back then, he had plenty of time to spend with his Pinoy fans.

As the publicist hired by Adidas, the brand he was endorsing at the time, I got to know Kobe from up close even if he didn't get to know me. I know, for example, that he often exasperated the local security assigned to him because of his soft spot for children.

When it came to kids, he just couldn't say no or ignore their request, even if he had to break security rules. When his three-day visit ended, the question everyone asked was, when he would return.

Yesterday, I attended the press conference hosted by Nike—the new brand Kobe is endorsing—at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel, to compare the Kobe '98 edition with that of the latest model.

I remember the excitement we all felt when we first caught sight of him—afro hard and all—at the airport on his arrival in '98. There was something about him then that made him so charismatic. I wondered if the Nike staff felt that too.

Kobe himself said that he has gone full circle since his first visit to Manila, winning three titles, among other things.

Not surprisingly, we were told that Kobe had requested that he be with kids during his one-day stay here in Manila. Kobe spent about 30 minutes answering questions from the media.

FLASHBACK, 1998: Almost all the training participants at the Don Bosco had left when I noticed a teenage girl who had lost one arm sitting forlornly with a man who looked like her father.

She said she had waited all day for a chance to have her photo taken with Kobe, a lifelong dream, but didn't have the nerve to approach him.

The girl introduced herself as Kathryn, a varsity basketball player from De La Salle Zobel. By this time, the training session was over; Kobe was very tired and was on his way to the vehicle that would take him back to the hotel.

But when he heard about Kathryn, Kobe stopped dead on his tracks, took a 180-degree turn, returned to the court and immediately approached her for a photo session, a brief chat and a bite. That's the Kobe Bryant I want to remember.

By June Navarro

SHEIVED FOR a decade, the Philippine National Games may soon be back as testing ground for new talents.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez has broached the idea of reviving the PNG in the wake of Executive Order 651 that called for the strengthening of the agency's grassroots development program.

Ramirez said that the grassroots program should culminate in a multi-sport event such as the PNG to measure the



RAMIREZ

abilities and skills of the athletes discovered through EO651.

Consigned to oblivion after the end of the term of President Fidel V. Ramos, the PNG was last held in 1997 in Cebu City with the help of local government units.

"If you ask me, I think the PNG should be revived," said Ramirez. "The

grassroots development program should culminate in an event and the PNG fits the bill."

The PSC top honcho, however, doesn't want to preempt the potential of EO651 and vowed to implement only the instructions of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in the said directive.

"For now, the PSC will just lay down the groundwork for its implementation," said Ramirez.

With the agency's Philippine Sports Institute as lead organization, Ramirez plans to create a task force he will chair and a representative from the Philippine Olympic Committee as co-chair.

AMA, UM dispute 2nd title slot today

DEFENDING CHAMPION AMA TAKES on University of Manila in a playoff for the last title slot today in the National Athletics Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) men's basketball tournament at the San Juan gym.

The Titans nullified the Hawks twice-to-beat advantage via an 86-62 triumph

last Sunday that kept their bid for a second straight championship stint alive.

The winner will take on STI, which crushed San Sebastian-Cavite, 92-61, in the semifinals, in a best-of-three championships series.

The Hawks are expected to come back fighting since they are gunning for

a return to the finals after winning five straight titles from 2001 to 2005 while setting a record 81-game victory streak.

Onofre Napiza, Frank Bonus and Russen Assuncion are the main men for UM coach Loreto Tolentino. The 6-foot-3 Napiza won the Rookie of the Year last season.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Tickets not for sale By invitation only.

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Sportswriter Pasco dies at 26

CHRISTIAN ACE PASCO, who covered the sports beat for Abante and Abante Tonight, died Tuesday night of complications caused by severe asthma attack at the Marikina Valley Medical Center.

He was 26.

The remains of Pasco, who wrote for University of Santo Tomas campus paper The Varstarian before he joined the sportswriting community in state at the Paket Santiago Funeral Homes besides the Our Lady of the Abandoned (OLA) Church in Barangay San Roque, Marikina City.

Interment will be announced later. Pasco, whose shy, soft-spoken demeanor was a stark contrast to the vivid and colorful way by which he portrayed his coverages in his articles, is survived by wife Jean, 1-year-old son Ace Jared, parents Rodo to and Salvacion and sisters Cherry Grace and Crystal Anne.



PASCO

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

SPORTS

Rafa, Serena head for exits

Henin, Ferrer send home US Open fan favorites

NEW YORK—SCRAP that Venus vs. Serena matchup at the US Open. Cancel Rafa vs. Roger too.

The tournament took a sharp twist Tuesday—and early Wednesday—when a pair of fan favorites at Flushing Meadows got knocked out.

First, it was Serena Williams. Top-seeded Justine Henin beat her for the third straight time in a Grand Slam quarterfinal, making it look easy at the end in a 7-6 (3), 6-1 victory.

"I got to go back and study and figure out how to beat her. That's it. Bottom line," Williams said.

Next up for Henin might be Serena's sister, Venus Williams plays No. 3 Jelena Jankovic in the quarters Wednesday, and the winner gets Henin in the semis.

Henin does not need to say who she'd prefer to play: she's 1-7 against Venus, 7-0 against Jankovic.

"Every match is a final for me now,"

Henin said. "If I have to play Venus, it will be a good challenge for me to play both sisters in the same tournament."

A lot of tennis fans were looking forward to seeing Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer meet in a third straight Grand Slam final. That won't happen now—15th-seeded David Ferrer upset the second-seeded Nadal, 6-7 (3), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 6-2, in a fourth-round match that ended at 1:50 a.m.

"Sure there is disappointment for me, but that is tennis," Nadal said.

The lower deck at Arthur Ashe Stadium was still nearly full when Nadal's last shot sailed long at 1:50 a.m. It came close to the latest ending at the US Open—back in 1993, Mats Wilander finished off Mikael Pernfors at 2:26.

It capped a day that also saw a player lose a point when a ball fell out of his pocket, another complain about center court TV screens and one of the wildest outfits in Open history.

Trying for his fourth straight Open ti-

tle, Federer was to play No. 5 Andy Roddick on Wednesday night.

Earlier Tuesday, No. 3 Novak Djokovic reached the Open quarterfinals for the first time by beating No. 23 Juan Monaco, 7-5, 7-6 (2), 6-7 (6), 6-1.

After his win, Djokovic talked about the Nadal-Federer history.

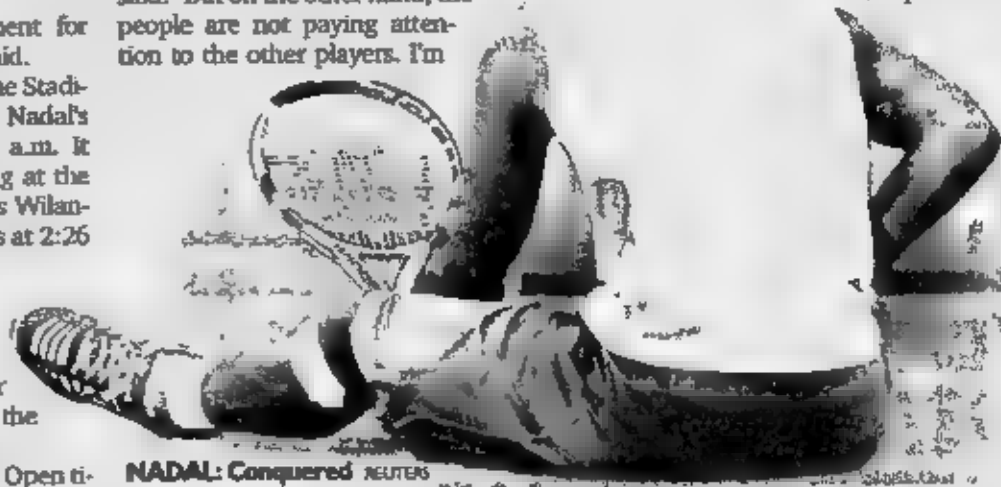
"Tennis needs this rivalry," he said. "But on the other hand, the people are not paying attention to the other players. I'm

one of those players in that smaller group behind which is trying to break that. Break it through and make this group of two a little bit bigger."

Monaco was serving in the third-set tiebreaker when the ball he'd put in his pocket in case of a fault slipped out. It was the second time in the match that happened, automatically costing him the point. AP



SERENA Williams feels she has to figure out a way to beat Justine Henin. AP



NADAL: Conquered REUTERS

Mickelson backs out of BMW golf championship

LEMONT, ILLINOIS—PHIL MICKELSON withdrew Tuesday from the BMW Championship, one day after threatening not to play over a conflict he had with PGA Tour commissioner Tim Finchem over issues he wouldn't explain.

"This decision was not an easy one to make, and in no way is meant as disre-

spectful to the tour or 'sending a message' to anyone," Mickelson said in a statement. "I've talked for weeks about needing to find a balance between my game, my business affairs and my family, and now is the time for me to take some time off."

Mickelson was playing a corporate

outing with sponsor Bearing Point in the Chicago area and could not immediately reached for comment.

If all the best players are going to compete together in these PGA Tour Playoffs, it looks as though it won't happen until the fourth and final event next week at the Tour Championship.

Tiger Woods skipped the first week at The Barclays, saying his body and mind needed a break from back-to-back victories at a World Golf Championship and the PGA Tour Championship. Ernie Els and Scott Verplank stopped last week at the Deutsche Bank Championship.

Mickelson had planned to miss the

third event, and winning in Boston while paired with Woods in the background gave him a platform to air some of his complaints. Without prompting, he mentioned on NBC Sports after his two-shot victory that he had made several suggestions to Finchem that were not acted upon. AP

France trips Italy; Spain, Greece also triumph

MADRID, SPAIN—TONY PARKER POURED in 36 points Tuesday and Group D leader France beat Italy, 69-62, handing the Olympic runner-up its second loss at the European Championship.

At Granada, Serbia's Milan Gurovic heaved a three-pointer from half-court to force overtime, but Greece prevailed, 68-67. Also in Group A, Russia won its second straight, dominating last-minute qualifier Israel, 90-56.

Lithuania moved into the second round with a 95-75 win over Group C rival Czech Republic (0-2) before Germany (2-0) routed Turkey (0-2), 79-49, behind 24 points from Dirk Nowitzki.

Pau Gasol had 26 points and nine rebounds to lead world champion Spain over Latvia, 93-77, in Sevilla, where Croatia (1-1) beat Portugal (0-2), 90-68, in another Group B game.

In the other Group D match, Slovenia (2-0) advanced with a 70-52 win over Poland.

At Alicante, Parker scored 13 of France's first 17 points and Les Bleus rallied from a 7-0 deficit to get within three to start the second quarter. But as Parker and France quieted, Italy built its biggest lead of the game, 33-24.

After cutting the deficit to five by intermission, France opened the second half with a 6-0 run to take its first lead, 37-36 thanks to two Parker free throws after Andrea Crosano was issued a technical foul for slamming the ball into the base of the basketball pole.

Parker scored France's next 10 points to give it a 47-41 advantage that Italy closed to 51-47 with the San Antonio Spurs guard finishing the final two minutes of the third quarter on the bench.

Italy scored six straight to start the fourth, reclaiming the lead, which it traded back-and-forth until Tariq Kirksay hit a three-pointer with three minutes remaining to put France ahead for good, 63-60. AP

Nine years later, Kobe goes from star to super

By Francis T. J. Ochoa

TOWARD THE END OF A PRESS conference that had the feel of a monthly fan club general assembly, Kobe Bryant cocked his head slightly to the right to ponder a question: How different was the Kobe Bryant who visited the country nine years ago from the Kobe Bryant who was fielding questions inside a posh Makati hotel ballroom yesterday?

A well-timed, split-second, PR-polished pause followed, just enough for the whirl of video recorders and the chorus of exploding flashbulbs to capture the profile of the 6-foot-6 basketball superstar in serious contemplation.

"I had facial hair [then]," he said. The predictable round of laughter followed.

Actually, it was more than just follicle

growth on the face that separated the Kobe of 1998 from the Kobe of 2007.

The Kobe of 1998 was the genial, trying-to-please-everyone sophomore who stole out of his room past his busload of bodyguards for a walk in a Makati mall and spent more than an hour engaging the press in a question-and-answer portion.

Three championships, a handful of scoring titles, several All-Star appearances, a legal controversy heard around the world and a Team USA stint later, the Los Angeles Lakers superstar had but 20-plus minutes to spare with journalists—a consequence of being more than two-and-a-half hours

late for the press conference.

Had he been a player of lesser stature, the crowd at the Makati Shangri-La ballroom would have morphed into a mob. But this was Kobe Bryant, the one-time hoop wunderkind-turned-franchise player.

He was part-Michael Jordan: "The thing that drives me most is the will to win."

He was part Charles Barkley: "The important thing to remember is that when people talk about role models, we assume that these role models must be perfect. But nobody is perfect. The definition of a role model should be someone we learn from. We look at the mistakes those role models make and learn from them, not duplicate them."

And he was part-Oprah: "I think that we should live every day like it's the last and enjoy the moment. As a kid, it seems like you'll live forever. But I think kids should learn to enjoy every moment."

And he was also a little of Drew Carey. When asked what constituted a diet program that has seen him lose 20 pounds, he quipped: "Grass." And asked by a journalist, whose son stopped school to see him, what part of him was worthy of emulation by young children all over the world, he said: "Apart from ditching school?" a self-deprecating comment that winged his decision to skip college and jump to the pros from the high school playgrounds.

And when asked which

players he would surround himself with if he was the LA Lakers owner, he replied: "You mean assuming I was Bill Gates? The whole of Team USA."

But most of all, he was all Kobe Bryant. The flamboyant, high-leaping, silky-shooting, shoot-first-ask-questions-later superstar who wrangled himself out of a legal mess by embracing basketball until he breathed it, until he became the ultra-talented swingman who could carry an entire storied franchise on his shoulders.

A lot of the player he has become started out by plunging into a merciless killer regimen he refers to as the "Blackout."

"Because if you go through it, there's a chance you will black out," he explained.

It's a regimen he was set to share with young cagers yesterday at the PhilSports Arena, right after doing charity work at The Fort.

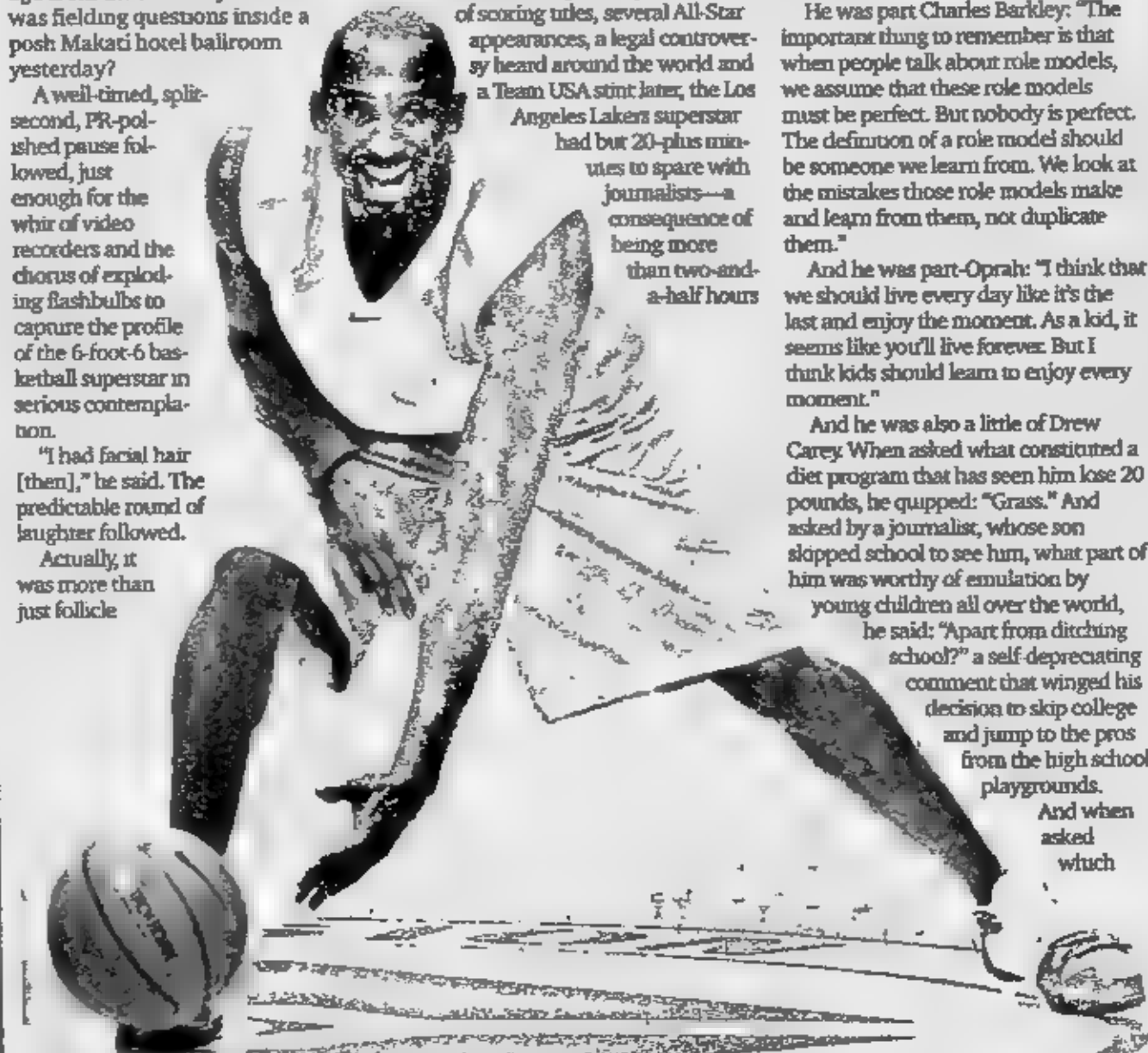
"Basketball is such a fun sport and to get the most out of it, the key is working hard," he said.

Next up for Bryant is a continued stint with Team USA, where he leads a bunch of pride-pricked cagers out to reinstall the United States as the Olympic champion in Beijing in 2008.

"We put a lot of emphasis on winning the Olympic gold," he said. "We're preparing like we're playing for the NBA finals. Right now, that's the important thing. When we go back to our teams, winning the NBA title is the most important thing."

This year's Kobe—who hopes to go by the moniker Black Mamba someday—is one of the leaders of that team. A far cry from the hang-loose, carefree type of guy who slapped hands with the press on his way out of a press conference nine years ago.

"When I first came here, I was 19," Bryant said. "Now I'm 29 and all grown up and I've won three championships and played for Team USA. It feels like I've come full circle."



Eagles take on winless Maroons; Bulldogs battle Falcons

From page A21

Running third at 7-4, the Eagles are jockeying for position against La Salle (9-3), defending champion Santo Tomas Tigers (7-5) and the Far Eastern Tamaraws (6-6).

"We don't want to end up in a tie with UST and FEU because they beat us by a bigger margin, than we beat

them," said Black. "The quotient system doesn't really save us right now so we really have to win."

In the second game, the National Bulldogs will try to keep their slim Final Four chances alive versus the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m.

If the Eagles secure their fourth straight victory, the Katipunan-based

crew will also remain in the running for the twice-to-beat semifinal bonus.

"All the teams are a lot tougher," said Black. "You really have to be on top of your game. Otherwise, other teams may take advantage of you."

It's the reason the Eagles have been guarded in predicting a repeat of their 79-55 rout of the Maroons in the first

round.

"I think we have to start concentrating on the fact that if we want to get to the Final Four, we have to keep a certain level of play," said Black.

Last Saturday, forward Nonoy Baciao delivered his finest performance in his debut season with 14 points, seven rebounds and three blocks to

pace the Eagles to an 81-68 triumph versus Adamson.

Just like the Maroons, the Falcons are out of semifinal contention with a woeful 1-10 card. The Bulldogs' chances also started to fade after three straight losses that pushed them down to sixth place at 4-7.

Jasmine W. Payo

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Dall. Mall. Hal.

August inflation eases further to 2.4%

Rate seen staying below gov't target of 4-5%

IN THIS ISSUE

■ SMC fund keen on buying Bank of Commerce shares /B2

■ Maynilad soon to exit rehab /B3

By Michelle V. Remo

THE INFLATION RATE FOR August eased further to 2.4 percent from 2.6 percent in July as nearly all commodity groups registered slower price increases during the month, the National Statistics Office reported yesterday.

This brought the average inflation for the first eight months of the year to 2.6 percent, still much lower than the government's target of between 4 and 5 percent.

Core inflation, which excludes volatile prices of selected food and energy items, stood at 2.9 percent,

slower than the 3 percent recorded in July. Average core inflation for January to August stood at 3 percent.

Prices of food, beverage and tobacco rose an average 2.5 percent, slower than the previous month's 2.8, housing and repair, 1.2 percent from 1.5

AUGUST/07

China's Shimao eyes 2 BCDA lots in Boni

By Ronnel W. Domingo

CHINA'S REAL ESTATE GIANT SHANGHAI Shimao group is vying for a joint venture with the Bases Conversion Development Authority on two properties for the development of "high-end, mixed-use" projects.

Narciso L. Abaya, BCDA president and chief executive, said the properties included the 7.4-hectare lot that Shimao was initially interested in and where it was planning to invest some \$2 billion in hotels, condominiums, offices and a commercial complex.

Abaya said Shimao was also looking at an area covering 35-40 hectares known as the Jusmag housing area from which retired Armed Forces officials have been evicted following an ownership dispute.

He said the Chinese firm was expected to submit a project proposal for the 7.4-hectare lot by November while another proposal for the larger parcel of land was expected next year.

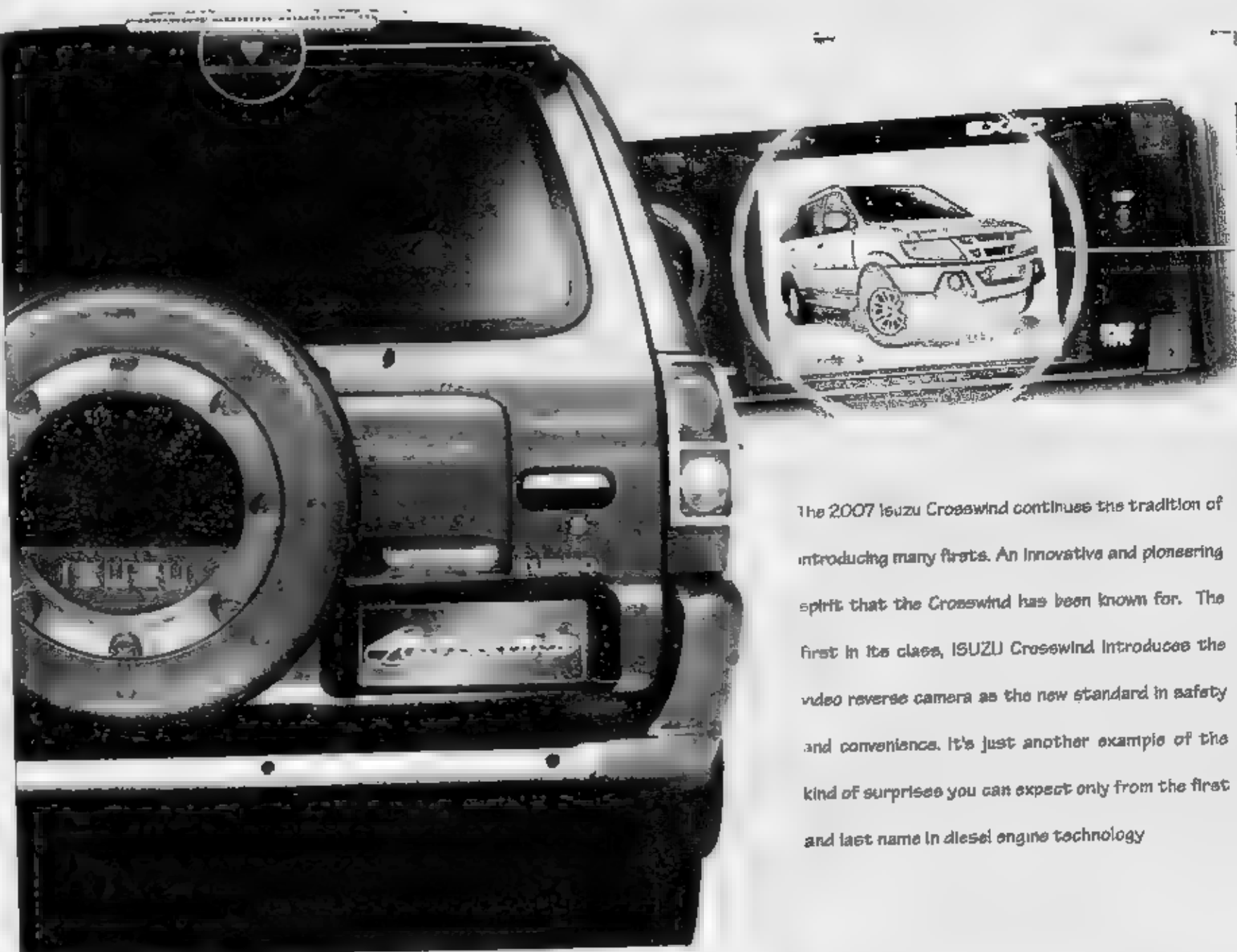
Abaya clarified that joint venture agreements for both properties would go through a bidding or a modified bidding such as a Swiss challenge, following a government policy that requires a competitive process for the selection of government partners.

"The National Economic and Development Authority is currently working on the terms of reference on how to enter into joint ventures like this," he added.

The Jusmag (Joint United States Military Assistance Group) area—so-called because it was originally a housing project for the

CHINA'S/BS

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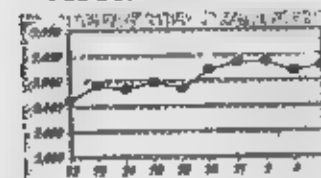
PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P 46.54 = \$1

As of 5 p.m., Sept. 5, 2007

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Stocks close higher on Wall St. rise

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.91-PERCENT higher yesterday following gains on Wall Street where data showing modest growth in the manufacturing sector gave investors a lift, dealers said.

They said fresh optimism that the US Federal Reserve will trim interest rates later this month also bolstered sentiment.

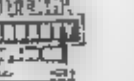
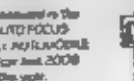
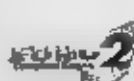
The composite index rose 30.05 points to 3,342.35. Gainers beat losers 73 to 37, while 52 stocks ended flat. A total of 2.7 billion shares worth P3.3 billion changed hands.

"The market again tracked US stocks while investors also have discounted the subprime mortgage concerns," said Jose Vistan at AB Capital Securities.

But Vistan said investors would continue to be cautious in the run-up to the Federal Reserve's policy meeting on Sept. 18.

"Investors are becoming very selective and are going into quality stocks rather than betting on speculative issues," he said.

STOCKS/BS



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Kepco needs supply contract before it starts building 200-MW plant

By Abigail L. Ho

KOREA ELECTRIC POWER CORP., THE parent firm of the country's second largest independent power producer, expects to operate a 200-megawatt (MW) coal-fired power plant in Cebu by 2010.

A person familiar with the matter said, however, that the start of the plant's construction was hinged on the Energy Regulatory Commission's ap-

proval of a power supply deal between Kepco Philippines Corp. and Negros Occidental Electric Cooperative Inc.

The applied rate for the Noceco contract was placed at P4.30 a kilowatt-hour.

Other supply contracts were with the Negros Oriental Electric Cooperative Inc. and the Central Negros Electric Cooperative Inc., the source said.

"We're still waiting for the ERC's approval of our contract with our first

electric cooperative partner Noceco. As soon as the approval is secured, we will issue the tender and proceed with the construction. That will take 36 months to complete," the source said, adding that the power firm hoped to start construction by early October at the latest.

The source said the plant would take between \$300 million and \$320 million to construct, to be financed by a Citibank-led consortium of banks.

Kepco, together with Salcon Power Corp., will put up the 200-MW coal-fired power plant in Naga, Cebu.

The project will use clean coal technology, which limits the emission of harmful nitrogen oxide and sulfur oxide to environment-friendly levels.

Kepco had earlier expressed interest in bidding for the 600-MW Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales and the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired

power facility in Batangas.

It did not push through with the bidding for Masinloc, however. Bidding for the Calaca plant would not take place until next month.

Kepco's Philippine operations currently include Kepco Philippines Corp., which operates the 650-MW Malaya Thermal Power Plant in Rizal, and Kepco Ilijan Corp., which operates the 1,200-MW Ilijan Combined Cycle Power Plant in Batangas.

For MWSI, a way out of rehab

CA ruling also allows Maynilad to get on with infra work

By Amy R. Remo

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS denied a petition of a union made up of Maynilad Water Services Inc. workers, enabling the water firm to push for an early exit from rehabilitation.

Maynilad Water Supervisors' Association had sought the help of the appeals court to prevent Judge Reynaldo Daway from hearing the rehabilitation case of Maynilad Water.

That decision would also enable Maynilad to accelerate service improvement projects throughout the West Zone.

In a decision authored by Associate Justice Myrna Dimaranan Vidal and promulgated on Aug. 30, 2007, the CA refused MWSA's claim that Daway had been "biased and prejudiced" against the union, particularly on the issue of unsettled benefits.

These include the cost of living allowance and provisions of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Court ruled that, throughout the rehabilitation case pro-

ceeding, the respondent judge "did not commit grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack of excess of jurisdiction," and that it did not see any "compelling reason for Judge Daway to disqualify himself from handling the case."

MWSA on Dec. 5, 2006 filed a motion for Voluntary Inhibition of Judge Daway, on the grounds that the judge allegedly indicated partiality as he presided over Maynilad's rehabilitation case.

Judge Daway, however, maintained that the motion against him was "completely baseless," and that he acted only "in the interest of fairness and transparency to all concerned including the supervisors."

In April 2007, MWSA then filed a petition for certiorari, which resulted in the CA issuing a 60-day temporary restraining order on the judge.

The TRO effectively prevented Maynilad from exiting rehabilitation at the soonest possible time.

"While it is within the right of MWSA to file its opposition to the plan to exit from rehabilitation,



SINGSON

the effects of the TRO have become a stumbling block to the continued drive to make Maynilad truly a viable company," Maynilad president Rogelio Singson said in a statement.

Singson had since urged employees to set aside their differences, as the company could no longer delay the process which would allow Maynilad to grow, attain its targets and fulfill its

commitment to over six million customers.

The effort of Maynilad and government and banking stakeholders to get the concessionaire out of rehabilitation culminated in the signing of the Prepayment and Settlement Agreement and the Transitional and Clarificatory Agreement on Aug. 9, 2007.

The different parties have been in the thick of negotiations since the new Maynilad owners, the DMCI-Metro Pacific consortium, took over in January 2007.

The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System had already endorsed the TCA to the Department of Finance, and is now awaiting acknowledgement by the government.

Maynilad has been under rehabilitation since it filed for concession termination in 2003, after incurring heavy losses largely due to the 1998 Asian financial crisis.

Maynilad has recovered since 2004 and, following a bid, was acquired by DMCI and MPIC in late 2006 as part of the rehabilitation plan.

UK-RP energy deal worth \$1.3B collapses

A \$1.3-BILLION DEAL BETWEEN a state-run Philippine energy firm and British company NRG Chemical Engineering, to build biofuel facilities here, has collapsed, a senior official yesterday said.

PNOC-Alternative Fuels Corp. (PNOC-AFC) was supposed to form a firm with NRG to set up a plantation and facility for production of alternative fuels in this country. But an official close to the talks said PNOC-AFC chose not to sign.

The official, who requested anonymity, would not say why the deal did not push through but added that NRG Chemical had decided to go with another local firm in the private sector. He would not identify that firm.

The two firms had originally

planned to build a 3.5-million metric ton bio-refinery at a cost of \$455 million, and a \$600-million plantation for jatropha, a plant material which is used in producing biofuels.

They also plan to build a 300,000 metric ton bio-ethanol plant at a cost of \$200 million.

President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the Biofuels Act of 2006 early this year, hoping to reduce the country's dependence on imported crude oil in favor of alternative fuels produced locally.

The law mandates the blending of one percent bio-diesel in all diesel products starting May.

By 2009, all gasoline products to be sold in the country should have a 5-percent ethanol mix. **AFP**

Gov't seeks to tighten oil grip on ecozone locators

By Michelle V. Remo

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO is set to issue an executive order requiring economic zone locators to regularly declare the volume of their oil importation requirements.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said the order, which he said should be out soon, is meant to curb technical smuggling of oil.

Importation in excess of the declared oil requirement of ecozone locators will not be allowed entry, Teves said.

Technical smuggling of oil is normally done by falsely declaring that it is imported by an economic zone locator. Locators are granted duty-free privilege as a reward for their dollar contributions to the country through exports.

In a Congressional hearing on the proposed 2008 national budget, Teves told legislators that the government loses between P60 billion and P65 billion a year due to technical smuggling, largely of oil.

The government is hard-pressed to plug revenue leaks, which may derail the country's effort to meet its fiscal targets. In the first half, the government reported an anemic tax take.

The government is trying to stick to its commitment to re-

duce the budget deficit to P63 billion this year, from last year's P64.8 billion, and to post a balanced budget by next year.

The executive order will be issued following the failure of the Bureau of Customs to meet its tax and duty collection targets in the first half.

In a recent meeting between the President and Customs officials, the latter said one reason for the collection shortfall was the drop in the importation of oil.

The President, however, did not accept the excuse, saying it was impossible for oil importation to have dropped because the economy grew robustly.

"Taxes are the nation's lifeblood and everyone should pay their fair share," Teves said in an earlier statement. "We will all benefit from more and better roads, well-trained and well-paid public servants, the delivery of good health services and high standards of public education."

Exceeding expectations, the economy grew 7.5 percent in the second quarter from a year ago, its strongest performance in 20 years. For the first half, economic growth averaged at 7.3 percent.

Teves said the Department of Finance, mother agency of the BOC, has directed Customs personnel to implement measures to curb the problem of smuggling.

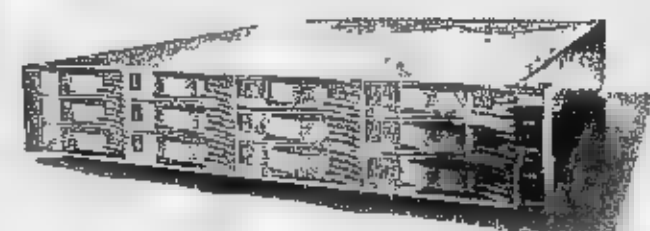
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SSS plans more stock investments

By Doris C. Dumlaog

THE STATE-OWNED SOCIAL Security System expects to increase its investments in local stocks by about P21.2 billion after getting a favorable investment valuation ruling from the Commission on Audit.

SSS assistant vice president Ma. Luz Generoso said yesterday that the COA had issued an opinion that the limit on the fund's investments—including stock market investments—should be based on the acquisition cost and not current market prices.

If stock market investments were marked to market prices, the SSS investments in the stock market at end June stood at P80.8 billion, equivalent to 40 percent of the investment reserve fund of P200 billion, thus exceeding the limit of 30 percent.

But since the SSS was allowed by COA to compute its exposure based on the acquisition cost, the SSS' stock market investments are offi-

cially valued at only P38.8 billion during the same period, or 19.4 percent of the reserve fund.

As such, Generoso said the SSS has room to increase its stock market investments.

Based on the investment reserve fund of P200 billion, the SSS can invest about P60 billion in the stock market based on its internal limit.

The pension fund set a stock investment limit of 30 percent of the reserve fund to prevent the fund from putting too much money in the market like what happened during the time of ousted President Joseph E. Estrada.

Shored up by huge stock market windfall, the SSS' investment income almost doubled to P15.5 billion in the first half of the year from P7.7 billion a year ago.

Extraordinary gains from the sale of its shares in San Miguel Corp., Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Ayala Land Inc. also led to the increase in its investment income.

ING to set up new equity fund



THE BURNAY (jar) making industry in Vigan City struggles during the rainy season as potters find it difficult to dry their products.

Investors will get chance to invest in Asian stocks

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

ING INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP, which manages around P80 billion in assets in the Philippines, plans to put up an investment fund that will allow Filipino investors to buy Asian stocks.

ING Investment Management managing director Cesar Zulueta said on the sidelines of ING's Funds Tournament awarding ceremony in Makati yesterday that the fund manager had filed an application with the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) for the planned Asian Equity Fund.

"What we want to do here on the funds side of the business is to introduce Filipino investors to a more diversified offering of investments," Zulueta said.

"Sure, we know what local bonds are, what local equities are, but the market is relatively small. If we want these investors to be exposed to other types of assets, we should be there," he added.

Although the size of the fund would depend on investor interest, Zulueta estimated that it would start at \$50-\$100 million.

He also said that the fund will be invested in major stocks in Asia.

Zulueta said ING Investment Management hoped to launch the new investment product before the end of the year.

ING Investment Management operates in 12 countries in Asia-Pacific.

These include Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Thailand, Singapore, India, Malaysia and Australia.

ING Investment Management is part of the ING Group and is ING's main asset management business unit.

It has over 350 billion euros in assets under management globally for a diverse client range, which includes institutional investors, pension funds, insurance companies, financial institutions, foundations, and retail funds throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

Its Philippine unit—ING Investment Management Philippines—operates as the trust department of ING Bank NV (Manila branch), a branch office of ING Bank NV Netherlands.

Present in the Philippines since 1998, ING IM Philippines provides management services to corporate, institutional and retail clients.

ING IM Philippines launched its range of retail funds in 2003.

Its peso-denominated products are: the ING peso cash management fund (invested primarily in short-term Philippine government and corporate bonds), ING peso bond fund (fixed-income peso bonds), ING diversified balanced fund (in high-earning stocks and interest income paying bonds) and the ING Philippine equity fund (local stocks).

Its dollar-denominated products are the ING Philippine dollar bond fund and the ING dollar income fund (diversified portfolio of bonds from Chile, Malaysia, Russia, Kazakhstan and other emerging markets).

Prospects are good for investment funds as the asset management business has been growing by 20-25 percent over the past five years.

One reason is the low yields on traditional investment vehicles, including savings accounts and government securities that forced investors to look for investments with higher returns.

BROOKE'S POINT FIND

Macroasia, Toledo to develop Palawan nickel prospects

LISTED FIRM MACROASIA CORP signed yesterday a memorandum of understanding with Toledo Mining Corp. (TMC) on a proposed joint development of two nickel projects in Palawan.

In a disclosure, Macroasia said the joint development involves the Infanta nickel project and the adjoining Celestial Nickel Project in Brooke's Point, Palawan.

TMC and its affiliates hold the ma-

jority interest in the Celestial nickel project, which they co-own with Celestial Nickel Mining Exploration Corp.

Macroasia and TMC will undertake studies that will cover possible joint work on the mining claims.

The Infanta nickel deposit extends across the common boundary areas controlled by Macroasia and TMC.

Both Macroasia and TMC have been drilling and testing their respec-

tive areas to define the extent of the nickel laterite mineralization, Macroasia said in a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Based on drilling on an area of roughly 300 hectares, TMC has defined more than 60 million tons of mineralization.

It is expected that the Macroasia property has similar nickel laterite mineralization.

The possible joint development of

the combined properties should make it easier for both companies to meet all standards of responsible mining, including environmental protection and community and social development, Macroasia said.

Mining firms are aggressively searching for nickel, which is used in the production of stainless steel.

The Philippines is said to have considerable untapped reserves. Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

China's Shimao eyes . . .

From page B1

American agency which declined to take it—was recently the subject of an ownership dispute between BCDA and a homeowners' association comprised of the wives of retired Armed Forces officials.

The Supreme Court ruled in favor of BCDA, which is preparing to appraise the area toward eventual disposition of the asset through a joint venture with a private company.

Last May, Abaya said Shimao chair Hui Wing Mao personally reiterated his serious and firm interest in investing in Fort Bonifacio during a recent meeting with BCDA officials in Hong Kong that month.

Abaya said Shimao was a world-class, fast-paced developer that could finish a 900-room twin-tower luxury hotel in 18

months, as what they did with the Hyatt Hotel at the Bund in Shanghai.

BCDA Chair Aloysius Santos had said that Shimao's entry into the domestic setting would set a new standard in real estate development in the Philippines.

The China visit by Santos and Abaya was made upon the invitation of Hui, who came to Manila last March to sign a memorandum of understanding with the BCDA on a joint development of a sizable portion of land at the Global City.

Abaya said this was one of the biggest partnerships of the government for property development in 2007, which would further boost the asset disposition program of BCDA and enhance its revenue-generating capability.

Stocks close higher . . .

From page B1

Index leader Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. paced the gainers, putting on P45 at P3,342.35.

Manila Electric Co. jumped P6 to P83, rebounding from earlier losses on fears lower tariffs set by government regulators would affect its bottom line.

But Ron Rodrigo of Unicapital Securities said Meralco remained fundamentally strong, noting that its earnings in the next four years were expected to remain strong.

"And the company itself sees no reason why foreign investors should dump the stock," he said.

AFF

CURRENCIES				
September 5, 2007	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.734808	1.000000	48.5820
Japan	Yen	0.006316	0.008595	0.4004
United Kingdom	Pound	1.479830	2.013900	93.8115
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.094275	0.128299	5.9764
Switzerland	Franc	0.606427	0.825287	38.4435
Canada	Dollar	0.700551	0.953380	44.4103
Singapore	Dollar	0.481778	0.655652	30.5416
Australia	Dollar	0.605179	0.823588	38.3644
Bahrain	Dinar	1.949299	2.652801	123.5728
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.195928	0.266638	12.4205
Brunei	Dollar	0.480204	0.653509	30.4418
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000078	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022471	0.030581	1.4245
UAE	Dirham	0.200084	0.272294	12.6840
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.360900	63.3934
Korea	Won	0.000783	0.001065	0.0496
China	Yuan	0.097390	0.132456	6.1701
Denmark	Kroner	0.134302	0.182772	8.5139
India	Rupee	0.018019	0.024522	1.1423
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.209556	0.285185	13.2845
New Zealand	Dollar	0.512454	0.697399	32.4862
Sweden	Kroner	0.106449	0.144867	6.7482
Syria	Pound	0.014338	0.019512	0.9089
Taiwan	New Dollar	0.022251	0.030281	1.4105
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000342	0.000466	0.0217

Source: Reuters' foreign closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 4, 2007

* Yen/baht in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen. ** Asian time closing rates of Sept. 4, 2007

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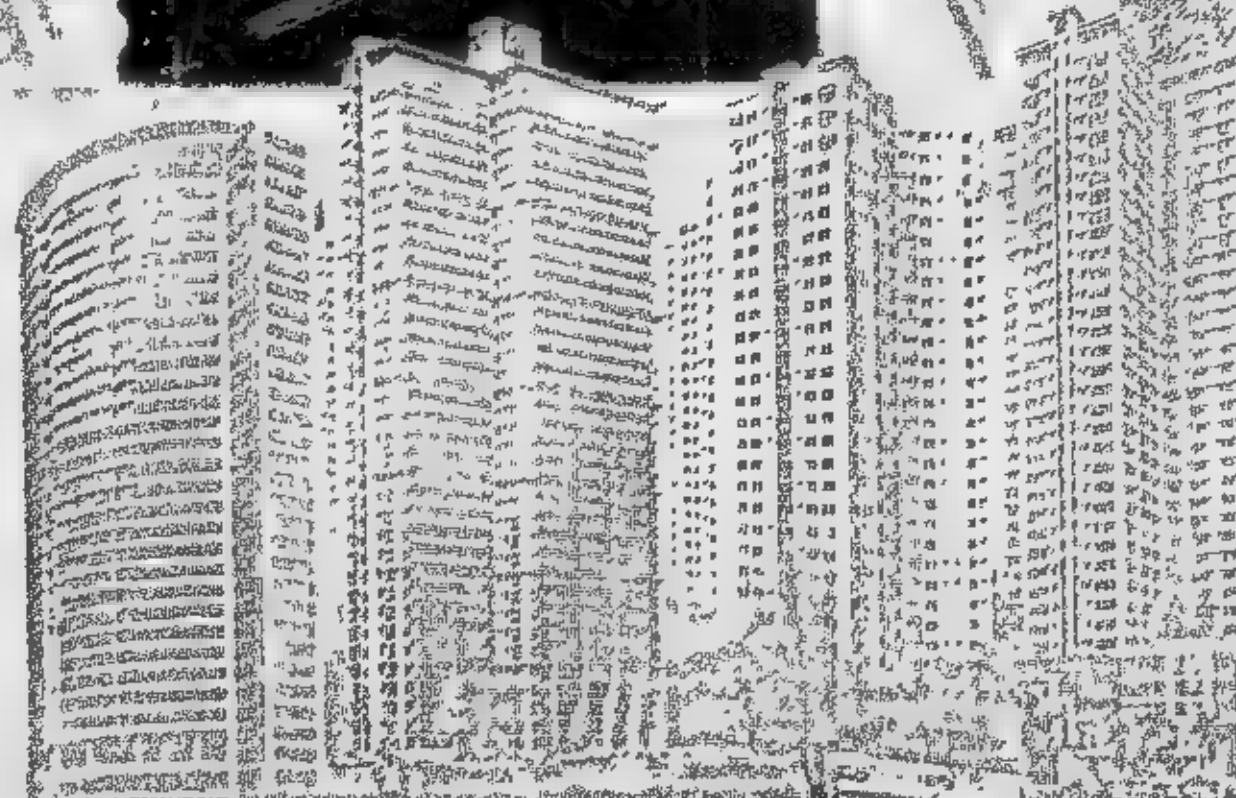


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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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- Haute couture desserts /D4

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY 2BU • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY



KITCHEN RESCUE
Reggie Aspiras

The queen becomes an international star

CAN YOU TELL ME HOW TO MAKE MANGOSTEEN puree/juice since I grow fruits in my farm and I want to put up a business such as chilled juice blends?

ROSELLER MIYAKE

Mangosteen, queen to durian's king, is perhaps the most coveted fruit from Southeast Asia in the international market today, selling for as much as US\$45 per pound in specialty food stores in New York. No fruit to date can be more in vogue.

What makes mangosteen so fashionable? For starters, no fruit is as complex in flavor—sweet, sour, creamy, containing all the good stuff that promotes good health.

A many splendored thing indeed is the queen! It contains xanthones, known to science as the most powerful of antioxidants, substances that combat disease-causing oxygen free radicals.

It is said there are 210 xanthones in nature and more than 40 are found in mangosteen. Remarkably, it is the whole fruit, not just the flesh, that is packed with xanthones.

Since 600 AD, mangosteen has been known as a healing agent and was used by scribes in Southeast Asia. The rind was sliced and dried, pulverized and taken as an herbal concoction, for external use, it was made into an ointment. The rind was also steeped in water overnight and drank as tea.

Though some studies say the health benefits of mangosteen have not been established conclusively, many swear by its healing powers.

According to Dr. Ray Sahelian, MD, studies point out "mangosteen has compounds with antioxidant, antibacterial, antifungal, and antitumor activity. Laboratory testing thus far indicates that extracts of mangosteen have activity against several cancer cell lines including breast, liver and leukemia. Mangosteen also appears to have antihistamine and anti-inflammatory properties."

Personally, I think you do not lose anything if you use it as a supplement.

Whether or not the fruit is all that it is heralded to be, the fact remains that England's Queen Victoria offered a knighthood to anyone who could present her the mangosteen. In the end, as far as this purple gem is concerned, it is the flavor that makes for all its splendor.

Here are your recipes. I don't know if you wanted a fruit juice or the juice that consists of the rind. Hope it's fruit juice you're searching for.

To prepare pulp:
Remove fruit pericarp/peel and separate fruit from seed.
Store in an airtight container.
Freeze pulp until needed.

Mangosteen Juice

1/3 c mangosteen pulp
1/2 c simple syrup (1 c water/1 1/2 c sugar, boil until slightly thick)
1 c crushed ice
Process in a blender. Serve garnished with mint leaves.

Blended Juice Drink

1/3 c mangosteen pulp
1/3 c milk or yogurt
sugar, honey or syrup
Process in a blender. Serve garnished with mint leaves.

And this, though not a drink, remains one of my favorite things to do with mangosteen.

THE QUEEN/C3

WHAT'S ON

Grandparents' Day!
Lolo & Lola's DAY OUT!



On their day out,
gigimik ang lolo at lola mol!

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

Robinson's
Mall

MANGOSTEEN
is probably the most coveted fruit from Southeast Asia at present.

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ALABANG Emy 0140136/140151 0909735 0928 2107242 0928 9719938	MEGAMALL Ruby 0313649/4377643 0917 8224399 0915 8004446	TASAY ROAD Maan 0915 8004446 0928 4263108	PASC Abbie 0928 4263108	SM NORTH Michelle 0905 2490717 0928 6712299	SUBIC Beth 2524514

Sautéing made easy

KNOWN FOR ITS LINE OF healthy and tasty sauces, mixes and other cooking ingredients, Mama Sita's now makes the age-old practice of sautéing easier and faster without sacrificing flavor.

With Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Mix, housewives and working moms need not chop, slice and dice to come up with great-tasting *ginisa*. Cooking is as easy as opening a packet.

Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Mix is made from natural ingredients, like pure chicken extract and choice

spices, organically grown by small farmers in villages and communities. It has no MSG.

The blend of spices and ingredients in the Pang Gisa Mix follows the secret recipe of Teresita "Mama Sita" Reyes, founder of Mama Sita's.

A budget-friendly, premium product, Pang Gisa Mix can make even plain or fried rice more exciting. It also provides a rich essence to soups and broths. It is available in 10-g packets.

Mama Sita shares the following recipes using Pang Gisa Mix with INQUIRER readers.

Banana Blossom Torta

(Makes 6 servings)

- 2 tbsp vegetable oil
- 1 pc onion, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 pc puso ng saging (haba), minced
- 1 pouch Mama Sita's Pang Gisa

Sauté Mix

- 1 tbsp wansoy, fresh
- 1 tbsp *cuchay*, chopped
- 3 pc eggs, medium-size, beaten
- 1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
- ¾ cup *singkamas* chopped

1. Sauté the garlic and onions and add the banana blossoms.



GINATAANG Santol

2. Mix in Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Mix to intensify the flavor of the ingredients.
3. Add *singkamas*, *wansoy* and *cuchay*. Sauté for a minute.
4. Remove from heat. Set aside to cool before adding eggs and spring onions.
5. Pan-fry the mixture until golden brown.
6. Serve hot with Brown Sauce.
7. Garnish with spring onions, red bell peppers, and fried *bihon*.

Brown Sauce

- 1½ c water
- 1 tbsp sugar
- 4 tbsp oyster sauce
- 2 tsp cornstarch
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped
- 1 tbsp ginger, grated
- 1 tbsp spring onions, chopped
- 1 tbsp oil, vegetable

1. Heat oil and sauté garlic until white.
2. Add rest of the ingredients and cook until thick.
3. Serve hot with Banana Blossoms

Roo Yung.

Ginataang Santol

(Makes 4-5 servings)

- 9 pc santol pulp, peeled, seeded and diced
- 1½ c water
- 1 c *kakang gata*
- 1 pc *siling pang sigang*, sliced diagonally
- 1 pouch Mama Sita's Pang Gisa Sauté mix
- Siling labuyo* for garnish

1. Soak the santol in water (to prevent darkening). Set aside.
2. Combine water and ½ cup *kakang gata* in a casserole or pan. Bring to a boil with constant stirring.
3. Drain the santol and squeeze out the water, then add santol.
4. Add the *sili* and Mama Sita's Pang Gisa mix. Cook over low heat with constant stirring until thick.
5. Add the remaining *gata* and cook for a minute. (Don't overcook to avoid curdling the sauce).
6. Serve hot immediately.



BANANA Blossom Foo Yung

Chefs' secrets revealed

SAN MIGUEL PURE Foods-Great Food Solutions (SMPP-GSF) brings back one of the country's top culinary experts, Chef Henry Sison, to share her culinary expertise once more at this year's Asia Food Expo Sept. 5-8 at the World Trade Center, Pasay.

Together with Sison, distinguished Japanese, Korean and Filipino chefs from the Henry Sison Culinary School will feature various products of San Miguel Pure Foods in an array of mouthwatering creations, ranging from authentic Oriental dishes to the most sinful of desserts.

Aptly titled "Favorite Restaurant and Café Recipes: Decoding the Chefs' Secrets," the audience will surely make tasty discoveries in the cooking and baking demo Sept. 8, 1:30 p.m., as the guest chefs reveal the secrets behind favorite restaurant and café recipes, while whipping together a sumptuous feast at the Afex main activity area.

Budding food entrepreneurs and food and cooking enthusiasts are encouraged to drop by our Business Opportunities Series Sept. 6, 2:30 p.m., as San Miguel Pure Foods Great Food Solutions share trade secrets which would definitely add to their food knowledge and skills, and give an extra boost to business.

"We encourage food enthusiasts to come and explore opportunities on how San Miguel Pure Foods GFS, the total food solutions provider of the top industry players for food chains, hotels, caterers, and restaurants, can help them in their business operations," said Helene Pontejos, GFS general manager.

"Our team of food experts will be there to help them identify solutions to grow their business better, and establish a distinct characteristic for their food offerings for their own clients."

"From cooking and baking demonstrations to opportunities to sample great-tasting and easy-to-do recipes crafted by the chefs from the San Miguel Pure Foods Culinary Center using San Miguel branded food products such as Pure Foods Hormel, Magnolia, Monterey, San Mig Coffee, San Miguel Mills Pre-mixes, and Great Food Solutions Cook Express," Pontejos promises these exciting activities that await attendees of this year's Asia Food Expo.

The 16th International Exposition on Food Processing, Packaging and Handling Machinery, Equipment and Technology will house together a comprehensive showcase of food facilities and expertise—from the best of the country's food equipment and top food ingredients manufacturers and suppliers, to culinary activities and demonstrations.

THE CONSUMER

A game no longer worthy of generals

The glistening metal pieces with artistic etchings and beautiful wooden case are gone

wind... will totally 'annihilate' the game, toppling everything."

Sison says whoever owns the rights to manufacture the GG, "proudly a product of Filipino creativity," should redesign the game and "do justice to its inventor. I hope this is not a reflection of the current state of the Filipino's sense of patriotism."

Feedback

It seems many people share our sentiments about the setup in our airports.

Reader Virgie Velasco said, "I felt good having found someone who is also wondering why the efficient taxi system implemented in the domestic airport is not being implemented at the Centennial Airport."

"Many times I have to wait for an hour or longer to get a taxi [presumably at the departure area of international airports where metered taxis are allowed]. Even if I arrive ahead of the others, it is a free-for-all, [people jostling to get ahead of the rest, with taxis stopping anywhere their passenger wants to get off]. Some taxis

also refuse to take you for various reasons.

"The coupon taxis are very expensive. They are clean, comfortable and fast, but expensive. [Can't] the Centennial Airport management do something about this? Where do we complain...?"

Ed T. Brondial said, "One word sums it up for me [at the domestic airport], it's convenience. You have a choice when it comes to the taxi and it's nearer. And it's relatively efficient. That's why given the choice, I'd take Cebu Pacific or Air Phil just because of the terminal."

Both Velasco and Brondial will be happy to know that something is being done about the transport system in the other airports.

Alfonso G. Cusi, Manila International Airport Authority general manager, wrote to say "we are well on [the way to having] metered taxis in the other terminals."

He said, "We are targeting by the last quarter of this year to provide the airport with metered taxis to give passengers [an] alternative transport service."

The efficient system at the domestic airport, he said, would also be implemented at the two international terminals "in line with our commitment to provide security, safety, comfort and convenience" to travelers.

Send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascarido and Yague Sts., Makati City; or e-mail iboldo@inquirer.com.ph

By Linda B. Bolido

READER JERA SISON IS DISMAYED BY the "shabby" treatment Filipinos give to local inventions.

He notes "the sad plight of our home-grown Filipino inventors and to think that the unfair treatment is coming from their own *kalahi, kapwa* Filipino."

Sison is referring in particular to the Game of the Generals (GG) invented by the late Ronnie Pasola Jr., as an alternative to the foreign game board chess.

"I clearly remember the first time I saw a set of the GG. It was packaged [like] a chessboard... contained in a wooden case... with square boxes in gray and white," he says.

"Inside are [flat metal pieces marked] with different military ranks. The game is very simple but interesting to play... It's a mind game similar to poker," Sison adds.

But the "new" version of the GG is a disappointment, he says. The glistening metal pieces with artistic etchings are gone, as well as the beautiful wooden case.

"What are being sold now are mediocre plastic or metal pieces and paper markers... With the substandard quality of products... now being manufactured, how can one expect brilliant [Filipino] inventions to be recognized and appreciated by present or future generations?" Sison asks.

The new version, he says, is made of cheap plastic. "I can only imagine the annoyance of players using this kind of inferior light materials. A sudden gust of

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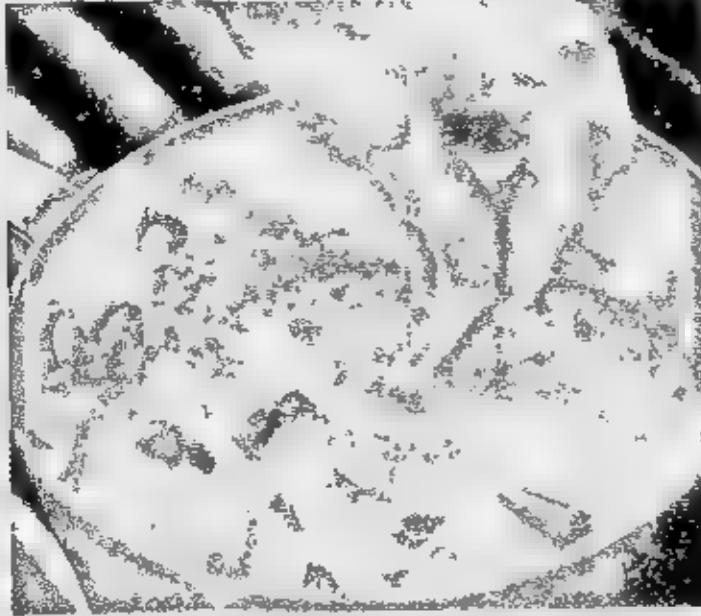
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4 ADD the coconut milk, stirring constantly.



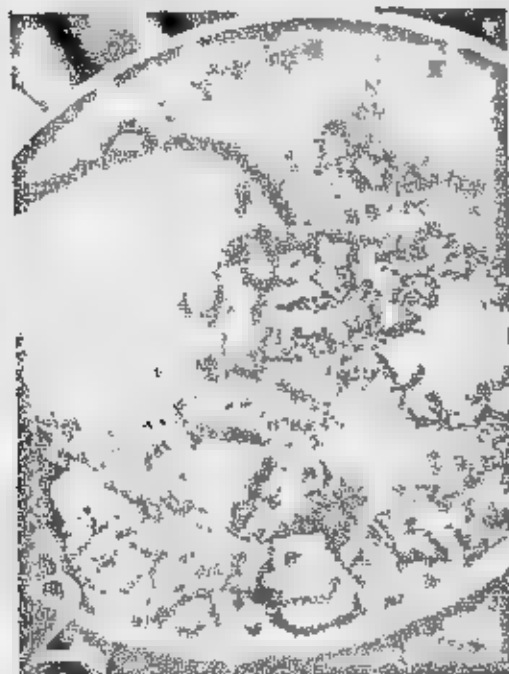
5 BRING to a boil, then lower heat. Continue cooking until almost all liquid has evaporated. Adjust seasoning by adding fish sauce. Add bell pepper cubes and lemon grass. Stir once in a while to prevent burning.



6



7 ADD malagkit, stir and cook for 10 minutes.



8 HEAT oil in saucepan. Sauté garlic and onions over high heat. Add chicken pieces and cook until chicken is slightly browned. Add patis, pepper, dilaw and water, if needed.



9 CLEAN malagkit, washing and draining the grains three times. Set aside.

The Pinoy paella

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Jim Guizao Punzalan

IF PAELLA IS FOR SPAIN, Bringhe is for the Philippines.

Indeed, Bringhe has become the local counterpart of the famed Spanish paella. Like the paella, it is cooked with rice, although the sticky variety or *malagkit* is used. It has chicken, pork and vegetables cooked in coconut milk. Instead of the pricey saffron the Spaniards use for paella, turmeric (or *dilaw*) is added to Bringhe to give it a greenish-yellow color and distinctive flavor.

This mouth-watering Pampango dish is a popular offering in most Pinoy festive occasions. It is prepared with different ingredients to give it a unique taste.

Some put chicken liver and gizzard, while others add Vienna sausage, potatoes, raisins, carrots or peas. (What goes into the dish seems to depend on the mood and taste of the cook.)

Bringhe is traditionally cooked in banana leaves so the rice does not stick to the pan. The leaves also give it a special aroma.

Bringhe is usually served on the table with the banana leaves.

Here is a special version of Bringhe from Jam Mendoza, chef instructor of the American Hospitality Academy Philippines (tels. 8927372 and 8927702), the first American culinary school in the country.

Mendoza's Bringhe was taken from the recently launched book "Foodlore and Flavors: Inside the Southeast Asian Kitchen."

The latest project of the publishing and design group ArtPost Asia, the book features essays and contributions from 14 international culinary experts and food writers from the region. *Inquirer* food columnist Micky Fenix wrote the portion on the Philippines, including the traditional Bringhe.

"Bringhe is such a rich concoction of glutinous rice and turmeric-flavored chicken steamed in banana leaves," says Mendoza. "But, in this recipe, we try to present it in a unique, classy way. We call it nouvelle Pinoy cuisine. We use the traditional ingredients but we get rid of the banana leaves."

Mendoza serves and arranges Bringhe on individual platters with all the garnishing you can imagine to make it visually more

appetizing and tempting.

The result is a mound of lovely gold-hued rice with tender chicken and topped with colorful vegetables.

Ingredients

1 c malagkit rice
500 ml coconut milk, freshly squeezed
30 ml cooking oil
5 g garlic, minced
50 g onions, chopped
½ pc chicken parts
30 ml patis (fish sauce)
20 g *luyang dilaw* (turmeric juice)
1 pc banana leaves
160 g bell pepper, red green
pinch of ground black pepper
lemon grass, crushed

Garnish:

2 pc hard-boiled eggs, sliced
chopped tomatoes

For suggestions, e-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph



7 ADD Bringhe, pressing it firmly into the mold.



8 REMOVE tin and again top with bell pepper.



9 GARNISH with hard-boiled egg, chopped tomatoes and spring onions.



10 NICELY plated Bringhe

Taste of Iloilo in Manila

FRESKA BRINGS TO MANILA the ambiance of lazy Sunday lunches in the beaches of Iloilo.

Following the success of its stall in Tiendesitas, it set up its first stand-alone restaurant along Katipunan Avenue, and its third outlet at the 2/L of Promenade, Greenhills.

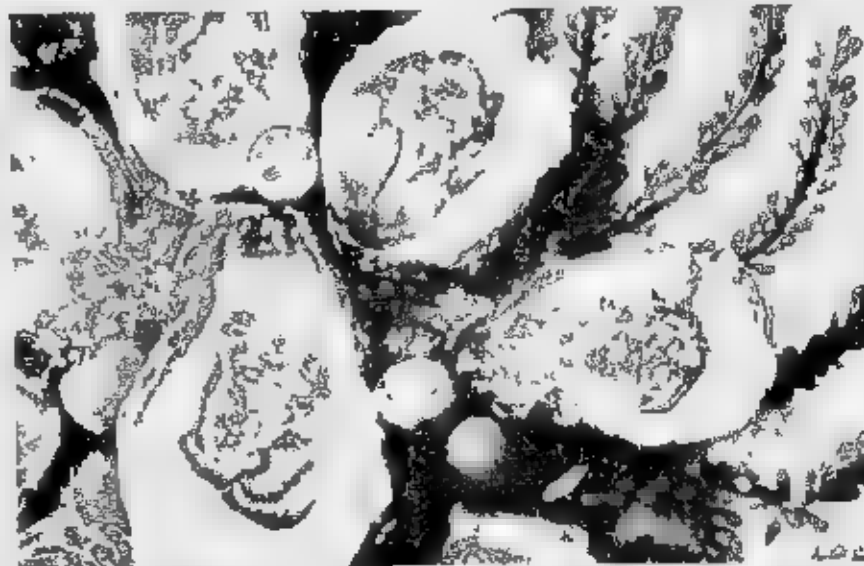
Freska's simple grilled selections use the freshest ingredients and choice spices.

Bestsellers include Grilled Scallops with Lemon Butter Sauce, Baked Oysters with Two Cheese, Sizzling Giant Stuffed Squid, Adobadong Hito, and its signature dish, Grilled Managat (Visayan Mangrove Snapper).

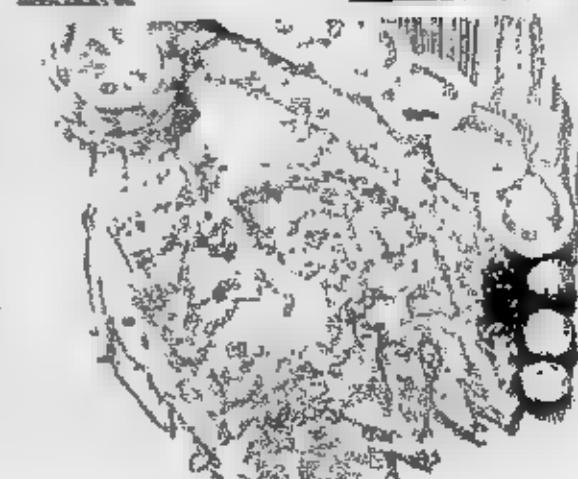
The restaurant also offers non-seafood choices like Chicken Inasal, Mango Salad with Red Eggs and Tomatoes, Lato (seaweed from Palawan), Kadios-Baboy at Langka.

The restaurant is run by Ilongga chef Pauline Gorriceta-Banusing, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and the Institute of Culinary Education in Manhattan, New York.

Freska showcases the best of Iloilo's culinary traditions.



OYSTERS with Lemon Butter and Garlic



GRILLED Managat (Snapper)



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LIFESTYLE

Bless this
homecooking

REMEMBER WHEN we all looked forward to fiestas in Pampanga? All dishes, no matter how simple, always had that special flavor.

You don't have to travel all the way to Pampanga or wait for the annual fiesta to taste those mouthwa-

tering home-cooked dishes again.

Mangan just opened at the new TriNoma Mall on North Avenue in QC. The restaurant offers irresistibly delicious *lutong bahay* Kapampangan food similar to the spread at fiestas.

Lengua, one of Mangan's hot favorites, is cooked in three different ways—Lengua with Mush-

room (P210), Lengua Sisig (P160) and Lengua Caldereta (P165).

Bestsellers include Tortang Talong with Pork Giniling (P80), Garlic Pugo Inadobo (P125), Crispy Pata (P380) and Sisig ni Mely (a Kapsampangan specialty named after the grand old lady

KARE-KARE
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SIMPLY/04

BPI Celebrating 156 Years of Banking Excellence

The BPI Network: Creating Customer Touch Points to Suit Your Lifestyle

Over the years, Bank of the Philippine Islands has been designing and redesigning its network to meet the changing times and the evolving lifestyles of its customers.

From brick-and-mortar to virtual, from person-to-person to electronic, from ATM to mobile banking, BPI offers its clients a vast array of customer touch points to make their banking as convenient as possible.

Today, as BPI turns 156, it boasts of over 800 branches, more than 1,400 ATMs, 11,000 point-of-sale terminals and a 24/7 Call Center. And with its Express Phone, Express Online and Express Mobile, every landline, PC and cellphone is now part of the BPI network.

While its innovations in electronic banking may have been more noticeable, BPI has also made significant changes in its branch network—in location, in special services for unique target markets and in the facilities you'll find within the branch.

BPI pioneered the branch in the mall, which caters to individuals who are tied to the office on weekdays and who spend their weekends or after-office hours shopping. These mall-based outlets called BPI Express

Banking Centers (EBC) allow shoppers to open an Express Teller account and get the ATM card in 20 minutes. The EBC also handles applications for BPI credit cards, auto and housing loans, and Express Cash.

Even BPI's regular branches, although seemingly uniform in its offerings, provide more than general banking services. Some of them are specially designed to handle corporate requirements while others will cater to individuals with sophisticated financial and investment needs. Still, others will provide expertise in handling the needs of overseas Filipinos and their families.

But there's more. Last year, BPI started rolling out branches called BPI Express, catering to individuals who want fast, friendly services for their simple routine transactions and basic banking needs. The branch offers you complete electronic banking channels—ATM, phone and online banking—and an Express Services Counselor to teach and assist you in completing your transactions using these channels. Tellers are also on hand, as well as Express Sales Counselors to answer your queries and offer financial advice.

For its innovative concept, the BPI Express branch won the Branch Transformation Project of the Year at the 2007 Banker Technology Awards. The award, given by the premier financial publication, The Banker, annually cites the best banking practices and innovations worldwide. BPI Express earned this citation besting other international banks.

Truly, banking has gone a long way with BPI's innovations in bank customer touch points. You can expect nothing less from a bank that takes to heart its commitment to bring its customers farther

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Place to Bank

Time Somehow there's never enough. As everyone knows, time is money, and minutes matter. So the last thing you want is to spend time on routine tasks like banking. Just thinking about the lines—from the payday ATM rush to the long wait for the teller—can be stressful.

Even more stressful is not knowing how to do your transactions using the phone or the computer at the bank—it makes you wish someone took the time to help you figure things out. And when you want to consult about getting a loan or financial advice, you feel like everyone's listening in on what you're saying—the bank just doesn't seem private enough to talk about such matters.

But fret no more, Bank of the Philippine Islands has come up with a friendly solution—its newest branch type called BPI Express, now in more locations nationwide.



When you enter a BPI Express branch, you are immediately greeted by its friendly, clean and modern interior design.

**It's a bank that's adapted
for today's hurried lifestyle.**

From the moment you enter the stylish, not-so-bank-looking bank, you notice the difference. The sunny decor, relaxed yet fast-moving mood and even the helpful, friendly BPI Express Counselors make it feel more like a boutique than a bank.



The BPI Express consultation area is designed to help keep financial discussions with clients strictly private and confidential.

**Basic transactions are quick
and easy with the BPI Express
Electronic Banking zone.**

There you'll find BPI Express Teller ATMs, a phone for BPI Express Phone

and a computer to access BPI Express Online. Plus, a BPI Express Services Counselor is there to help you every step of the way. Once you learn how to do it, you can do your banking from the comfort of your home or your office.

**BPI Express has friendly
tellers on hand for your
other transactions.**

BPI Express caters to simple routine transactions, so lines at the tellers are short. Think of the whole branch as a supermarket Express Lane—a fast lane designed to move you through quickly and more pleasantly.

But the "Express" isn't just about speed; it's also about expression. Just tell us



Our tellers are ready to assist you with your simple, routine transactions. That's why lines are shorter and transactions are faster.

what you need, and we'll help you find it—not standing at a counter, but in the privacy and comfort of a personal workstation. Here, BPI Express Sales Counselors can give you simple, practical advice on loans, investments, financial planning and other money matters.

**BPI Express offers private
financial consultations.**

So, if you want to have more control over your time and get friendly, fast service, come and visit the nearest BPI Express branch. You might just be surprised at how quick—and pleasant your banking experience could be.

BPI Express Services Counselors are on hand to teach you about phone and online banking.



BPI Express branches: METRO MANILA: Alimaza Uno • Las Piñas • Auto Mall • Frontera Drive, Ortigas • A. Bonifacio • Mauban • D. Macapagal Ave. • Aseana • España • Blumenbritt • G. Aranela Avenue • Intrepid Plaza • Lkio, QC • J.P. Rizal • San Miguel • Kamias • Laong Laan • Medical Plaza • Makati • Muñoz Market • President Ave. • Paranaque • Quezon Ave. • D. Tuazon • Shaw Blvd. • Acacia Lane • Santol • Sta. Mesa • Sucat • Virra Mall • Talon • Las Piñas • Taytay • El Monte Verde • Ballwag • Rizal St. • **VISMIN:** Davao • Bajada • Davao • MacArthur • Gaisano • Tabunok • SM Cebu • **SOON TO OPEN:** Alabang • Civic Place • Dau • McArthur Highway • Fort Bonifacio • Stop over • Fort Bonifacio • High St. • Malibon • Paseo del Congreso • Riverbanks • Trinoma

Member: Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation. Maximum deposit insurance per depositor is P250,000



A diario novela by **CARLO J. CAPARAS**
To have and to hold
Art: **ARNEL A. AVETRIA**



A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA

GARFIELD

BY IM DAVIS



PUGAD BABOY

BY PM. JUNIOR

KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA



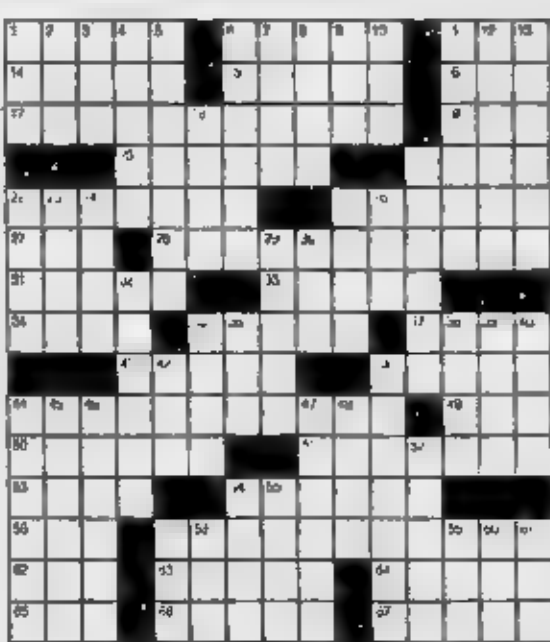
DAILY CROSSWORD

HOROSCOPE

ATOMO AND WEBBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO

- ACROSS**
- Lucky thing
 - Type of tiger or airplane
 - de mer
 - Indian bread
 - Slecken
 - Unsed
 - Start of Evan Esar quip
 - Go bed
 - Picks up the tab
 - Singer Kristofferson
 - Moved lightly and nimbly
 - Entangling ewe
 - Com unit
 - Part 2 of quip
 - Elite social category
 - Flings
 - Brooding location
 - Driver's reversal
 - Lat. list-ender
 - Impatient
 - Where the action is
 - Part 3 of quip
 - Goal
 - Drives back
 - Under-C diacritic mark
 - Columnist's pg.
 - De la Renta and de la Hoya
 - Bobbsey twin
 - End of quip
 - Comida call
 - Attorneys-to-be for a year
 - Is on a quest
 - Disencumber
 - Beckett no-show
 - Nearly vertical



By Alan P. Otschwang
Huntington Beach, CA

9/6/07

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



YOU BORN TODAY: You need variety and stimulation. You have to be bored. With your attention to detail, you can thrive in research, the sciences or psychology. You need a lot of freedom in your life. You adapt quickly but function best when you have a goal. People find you friendly and outgoing. The year ahead favors all kinds of social activities. Enjoy!
Birthdate of: Michelle Jean, Canada's Governor General; Justina Machado, actress; Greg Rusedski, tennis player.

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19): Unexpected company might drop by at home today. On the other hand, expected company might be a no-show. Something at home will be different!
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20): You'll meet new faces or run into old friends today. It's an interesting day because nothing goes quite as planned. You can count on your daily routine being interrupted!
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20): Spontaneous purchases and impulse buying are very likely today. However, you might also dream up unexpected, new and novel ways of making money!
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in your sign today and you feel lucky! You want something different to happen. You're ready for adventure and are bored with routine.
- LEO** (July 23 to Aug. 22): Hidden surprises might catch you off-guard today. These will occur especially if you're dealing with the government or large institutions. On the other hand, it could be a pleasant discovery.
- VIRGO** (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A friend will surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone who is quite bizarre and different from you. (At least it won't be a boring day!)



CONCEPTIS SUDOKU
by Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★

5		3		7	
4		2	8	9	6
	5		2		7
	2	6			4
		8		6	9
9			1	5	7
	6		4		8

Answer to previous puzzle

9	6	2	4	3	8	5	1	7
1	8	4	6	2	7	3	9	5
5	7	3	6	9	1	2	8	4
8	5	1	7	6	4	9	2	3
4	3	9	1	8	2	6	7	5
7	2	6	3	5	9	8	4	1
6	9	7	2	1	3	4	5	8
3	4	5	8	7	6	1	9	2
2	1	8	9	4	5	7	3	6

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

COUNTRY COOKING
Micky Fenix

Tasting Cebu once again

UNLESS I GO TO A town or province to do research, the cuisine of the place unfolds very slowly. Sometimes it takes years.

Cebu cooking was introduced to me during my early working years by my boss in a broadcast company, Marilyn Bajaras. It was not in the island province but in her apartment in Quezon City.

She taught me how to eat *maya maya* (katambak, red snapper) head cooked as *tinowa*, which is how Cebuanos call their highly soured *sinigang*.

She made me a *kinilaw* fanatic and every *tanguigue* *ceviche* thereafter had to measure up to her version. Her *guinamas* was sent by her mother from her



A SERVING of rompe kandado tinowa at Binugoy.

hometown of Mandaue. I thought this fermented fish was more spectacular than the *bagong alamang* and *bagong isda* I was familiar with.

She also gave me my first taste of dried *danggit* and she laughed when I called the side without the bones "page one," my favorite side.

I went to Mandaue for her wedding. The day was like a fi-

esta because the whole town seemed to be there preparing and cooking. She managed to have some experts teach me how to weave the leaves to form *puso*, rice wrapped in coconut leaves. I failed miserably.

I remembered her when I went to Mandaue last week to have a *tinowa* experience. As soon as I saw the restaurant name, Binugoy, I laughed.

'Kinawboy' eating

Having learned Cebuano during a teaching stint in Cagayan de Oro and Binisaya from my husband's Leyte family, I knew *bugoy* meant a ne'er do well fellow. Even better, the sign said "Kaon nga kinawboy." To be a "cowboy" in this country means you take things as they are, you are comfortable in any situation.

As long as the place is clean, I can be "kinawboy." And I like eating places like Binugoy, unpretentious, serving home-style meals on plastic ware set on plastic tables and chairs.

Several *tinowa* woks lined the *turo-turo* area. You could choose from clear to reddish-orange broth colored and soured by lots of tomatoes.

The fish was barracuda or what they called *rompe kandado*. There was also a big eel. I forgot to ask them how it was called there but I remember that it is called *palos* up here in the north. There was *sangray*

also.

It was breakfast, by the way, during that visit and no one found it strange that we ate *kinilaw*. So we took two versions, one a *tanguigue* and the other sea cucumber, or *sunlutan*. There was also *lukot*, a spaghetti look-alike, greenish and wonderful. It made up for the fishy *lukot* we had during our last visit to the Tahsay *lechon* place.

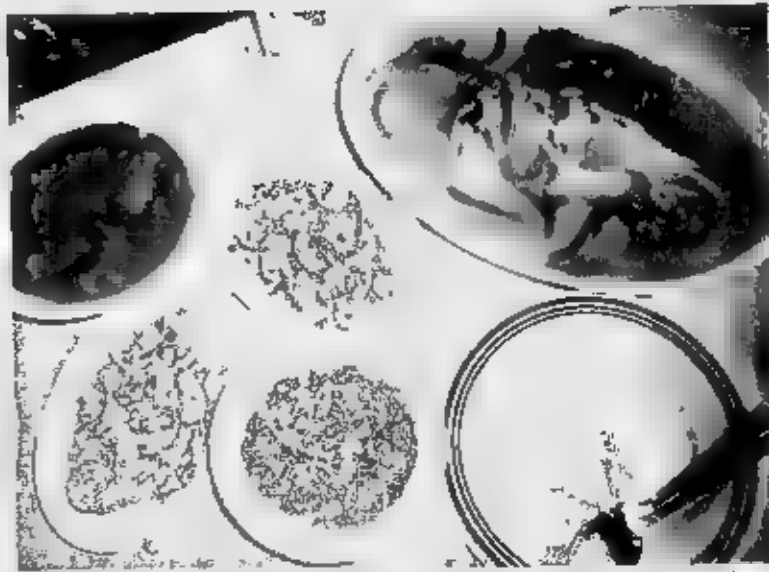
Lechon would not figure too much during this visit. We have had our fill so many times during former visits. Those included two Sundays at Tahsay where *lechon* is sold by the kilo or on the peso amount the customer wants to pay.

At Stakili Resort, we were given *lechon* with chicken roasted in its belly. It was also there where we tasted pig's stomach called *tungol*, cleaned very well then stuffed with garlic, onions, tomatoes, leeks and scallions then fried.

Sutokil

If a general grouping of Cebu cooking were to be done, *sutokil* would be it. That is short for *sugba*, *tola* and *kilaw*-grilled, soured soup and vinegar-cured.

The *sugba* part are the many barbecue places in the city and outlying areas. My first experience was at the downtown Larian, rows of stalls that barbecued anything—seafood, chicken and its spare parts, pork.



A HEARTY breakfast at Binugoy of barracuda and eel tinowa, kinilaw of sea cucumber, mackerel and lukot (seaweed).

The *sugba* part on this visit was at Parr T Ebelle where we partook of the most delicious belly of the barracuda. It was the creamiest *sugba* I've ever had. We once more had *tinowa*, this time the head of *mamsa* (tallakitok, jack).

One new thing learned on this visit was the dipping sauce Cebuanos favored with their *tinowa* and *sinugba*. It had sliced green tomatoes and Bombay onions and, mixed according to taste, vinegar, soy sauce and calamansi juice.

We were treated to a bit of heritage when Maricris Encarnacion, Cebu resident and friend, brought us to Argao, about two hours from the city. I remembered how my Cebuana boss also brought me there for some beach time and my first taste of sea urchin sold in bottles by fishermen.

I'm glad Argao has a heritage activist, Alex Gonzales, who works to preserve not only the *torta*, a kind of cake, but also the baroque church of St. Michael

and its convent, the Casa Real and Puerta Real. I'm sure he is as frustrated as I am that the parish priest painted gold the saints at the main altar!

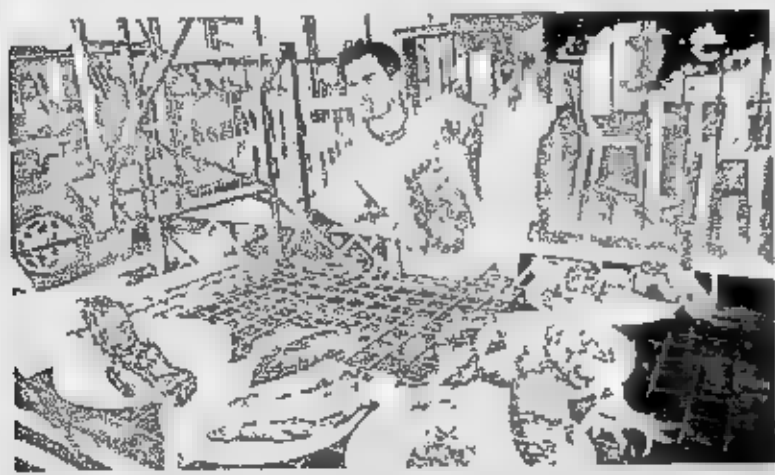
We ate at Alex Kaffe, owned by Alex, where we tasted *tanguigue kinilaw*, boiled white shrimps and the house version of *humba* or braised pork. We ordered *mungos* to find out what it was. It turned out to be *monggo guisado*.

On the way back, it was difficult to escape the call of pork so we stopped by Carcar. At the stall of Orik we bought *chicharon* or pork crackling by the gram.

We remembered that on a previous visit we passed by the town of Liloan where we also bought their version of *chicharon*.

Because every Cebu visit has given me a broader view of the cooking, I am excited about the next visit, whenever that will be.

E-mail the author at pinoy-food04@yahoo.com



FISH sinugba including the barracuda belly at Parr T Ebelle

European nouvelle cuisine
in Asian setting

TUCKED AWAY IN A TREE-lined section of San Juan, is Bulan.

With its intricately carved antique door and cathedral ceilings garlanded by elaborate lacework handcrafted by Filipino artisans, the three-level colonial house of solid stone seems to be a place for traditional cooking.

The restaurant, an exponent of nouvelle cuisine, serves European food in an Asian setting.

A bar of antique hardwood has a counter inlaid with ebony and ivory patterns. At the center are birds and butterflies with wings of ebony and bone with eyes of amethyst, peridot and ruby. Dining tables are fashioned from aged narra, mahogany and other hardwood. The centerpiece of a magnificent 12 seater was an ornate door from India.

A diner finds copper chaffing dishes; blown glass chandeliers; Balinese carvings; and jars, images and artifacts from China, Tibet and Nepal, as well as paintings of Filipino masters.

The seamless fusion of food and art is the work of siblings art dealer and publisher Marlene and master chef Tony Aguilar.

"We wanted to show the Philippines something new," says Marlene.

Tony, who bears a striking resemblance to eldest brother Freddie Aguilar, the singer, is a composer turned chef. He is home after 18 years as a



VEGGIE Salad

PHOTOS BY MANDY NAWASERO

master chef in Sweden.

The name Bulan, the siblings explain, is Ilocano for moon.

A great deal of thought went into the selection and pricing of items on the menu. Popular dishes include the Cleopatra (duck imported from France, oven-baked in Sauvignon sauce with a dash of saffron aioli); Roma (grilled orange-flavored filet mignon in marsala sauce, served with zucchini and tomatoes in olive oil); and Achilles (grilled lamb marinated in herbs and oranges, served with ratatouille, olives and feta cheese with an undertone of marsala wine sauce).

An array of soups, salads and appetizers is available for starters and homemade sorbets and gelato for dessert.

The owners usually recommend Max Reserva Cabernet

Sauvignon of the Chilean label Vina Erazuriz to accompany the main dish. But wide selection of wines and spirits, as well as premium beers, is also available.

After the meal, guests are encouraged to view the displayed artwork. A curator is at hand to answer questions.

Bulan has also hosted private affairs like family dinners, business lunches, art exhibits, book launches and even romantic meetings. An exclusive mezzanine area is available for guests who require privacy.

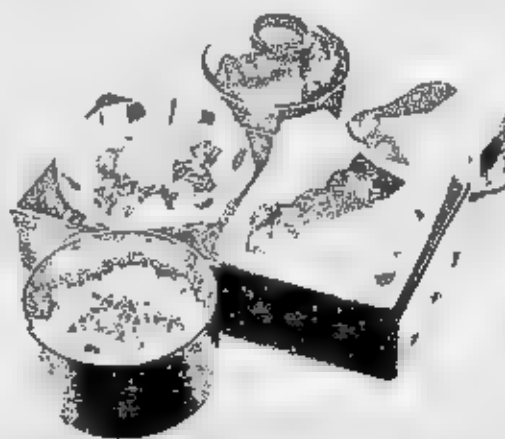
On Fridays, some of the country's most-respected artists and promising new talents hold sketching sessions at the third level function hall.

Bulan is at No. 3 General de Jesus cor. Jose Abad Santos Sts., Little Baguio, San Juan. It is open for lunch and dinner. Call 7258496.



PANCAKES WHEN YOU WANT THEM

Enjoy pancakes any time of the day at Heaven 'N Eggs, Eastwood City. The bright and colorful restaurant's all-day menu also includes steaks, pastas and Asian dishes. The Peanut Butter and Jelly Pancake Stack dessert is big enough for two. It has five layers of soft pancake, bathed in two kinds of peanut butter, freshly ground peanuts and a strawberry jam center. The Banana Foster Pancake has caramelized bananas, walnuts, rum and cinnamon, while the Dulce de Leche Pancake has sweet flan. Call 9121172 or text 0917-8EWJCITY



SAKAE Sushi offers bento meals that include miso soup, gohan and fresh fruits with your choice of grilled salmon, chicken teriyaki and beef yakiniku. There's the Sakae Deluxe Bento (freshly grilled saba shoyaki, choice sushi and agedashi tofu). Sakae Sushi branches are at Crescent West Park, The Fort and SM Mall of Asia. Call 8434891.



CABALEN'S Fried Bangus with Mango Salad

DINING OUT

Buffet treat for grandparents

THIS GRANDPARENTS DAY, treat Lolo and Lola to Cabalen's exceptional buffet, with over 50 dishes to choose from at a very affordable eat-all-you-can price. Specialties include Sigang Bangus sa Bayabas, Ginisang Labong with Chicken, Cabalen Morcon, Adobong Camar, Ensaadang Paku, Fried Bangus with Mango Salad and, for those with a sweet tooth, the Tibok-Tibok kakanin. Cabalen's Pick A Price Promo allows Loios and Lolos to win exciting prizes like Pepsi Lite products, Cabalen gift certificates and Pinoy deli items. Cabalen Restaurants are at West Avenue, SM Megamall, Robinson's Place Manila, SM North Edsa, Robinson's StarMills Pampanga, SM Clark, Festival Supermall, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, TriNoma and Gionetta 3. Call 3723515 or 8939884 for reservations or 9135522 for catering services.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA Festival Mall Alabang offers Super Chinese Fiesta Merienda, Pinoy merienda

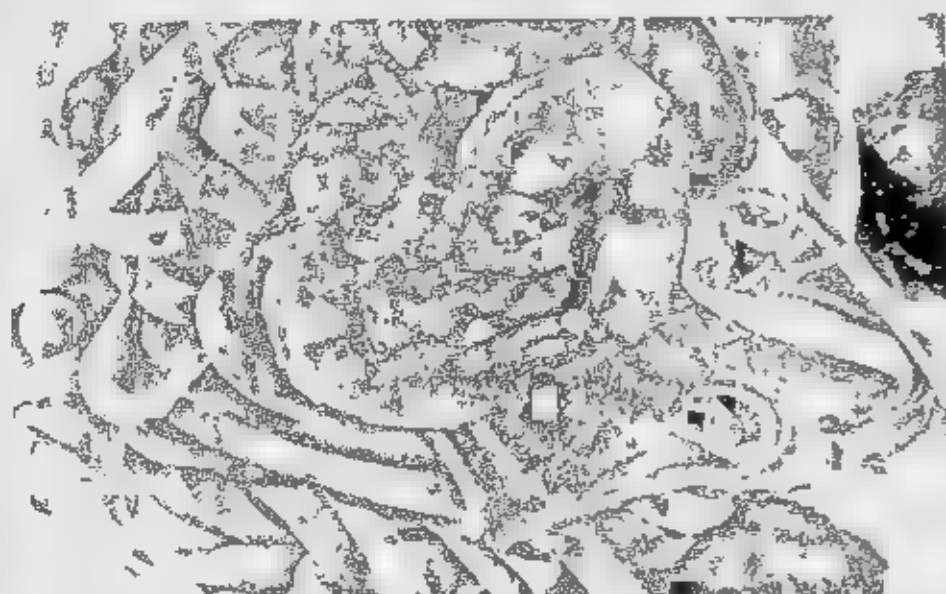
with a Chinese twist. Have the afternoon snack buffet for P129 per person. The promo features a noodle dish, soups, dim sum, congee and others with a single serving of iced tea or lemonade. It is available 2:30-5:30 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The Super Chinese Fiesta Merienda promo is available until Oct. 31 exclusively at Super Bowl of China Festival. Ma. Alabang.

THE BELLEVUE HOTEL with the Department of Tourism Region 9 headed by director Ric San Juan present a taste of Zamboanga, Sept. 7-9. The hotel's Café d'Asie features guest chef from Zamboanga who will share her specialty dishes such as Curacha Crabs and Imbao Oysters for P795+. A special treat also awaits grandparents on Sept. 9. Call 7718181.

CASA ARMAS, the popular Spanish restaurant, is now offering authentic Jabugo ham. Jamón de Jabugo has a distinctive quality. It

is produced in Jabugo, home of good natural produce and fine wines, in Huelva, a province of Andalusia, Spain. At Casa Armas, Jamon de Jabugo is served with bread on a *tabla* (wooden board). Priced at P975+, it is the newest addition to the restaurant's wide *tapas* selection and can be enjoyed year round. A serving can be shared by two to three people. Call 6873663. The Podium, 8973542, Jupiter Street, Makati, or 7574996, Greenbelt branch.

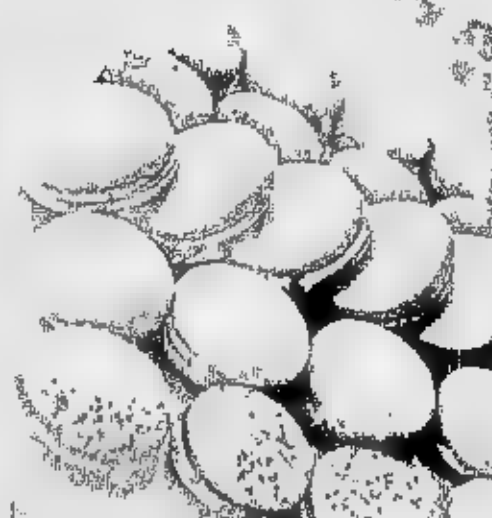
ALBA RESTAURANT has added new dishes to its 55 *tapas calientes* and *tapas frias*. Recently added to the menu are the meaty *Carri lada de Vaca al vino rojo* and the seafood special *Mejillones al Tigre*. New cold *tapas* are *Tortilla Catalana*, *Tostadas*, *Tomate and Mahi Mahi Fresco*. Alba Restaurant is so introducing *Pa amb tomaquet* Spanish tomato bread, among others. Call 8966950-51, 8904399, 9251912, 9287129, 4117052, 6312216-17.



SEAFOOD Pasta

Will deliver esserts

GATEAU Chocolate Lollipop, Petit Mont Blanc and Passion Fruit and Banana Sherbet



MACARON collection



CRÈME Brûlée infused with Japanese green tea, chocolate ice cream with warm chocolate fudge drizzle and Tiramisu

Chocolate Lollipop and Prahne Profiterolle
Classic chocolate ice cream came up next, this time made more exquisite by warm chocolate fudge drizzle and almond crumble. Also served were Crème Brûlée infused with Japanese green tea and Tiramisu.



Cecile Ang, the hotel's young and restless president, has tapped the equally young Singaporean dessert wizard to update Diamond's dessert selections.

Dessert Couture proved the perfect opportunity for introducing his concoctions and confections to Filipinos.

The full-course dessert dining, which benefited Pathways for Higher Education, presented a collection of cakes, pastries and other temptations that were as visually stunning as they were rich in flavor.

Guests could not help but gush over each course which was complemented with champagne and relaxing music.

They started with Green Lime Eclair, Walnut Cheesecake and Baked Pear Tart. They were followed by Gateau Chocolate Lollipops, Petit Mont Blanc and Passion Fruit and Banana Sherbet.

The third course featured Le Royale, a dark chocolate MONT Blanc mousse with almond meringue and hazelnut crisps, followed by Valrhona Dark

(tel. 5283000, www.diamondhotel.com)

LET US REPHRASE THAT WITH "all desserts," which was what Diamond Hotel offered recently when it sold tickets to three seatings of Dessert Couture: The Ultimate Cake & Dessert Gallery at The Loft of Manansala in Rockwell Center.

The sweetest sit-down dining ever held so far this year launched Diamond's entry into dessert catering service.

Starting Sept. 15, the Diamond Hotel Dessert Station will be available for setting up in your home or any party venue for buffet or a la carte selections of sweet treats (minimum order of P1,200, please).

Just call 5283000 and the hotel catering staff will show up at your door with a dessert service that stars the latest concoctions of award-winning pastry chef Pang Kok Keong.



TIRAMISU



CHUCK that carton of easy-bake cheesecake, pick up the phone and sit pretty. Starting Sept. 15, Diamond Hotel will deliver desserts to your door.



SINGAPOREAN pastry chef Pang Kok Keong introduces his concoctions



DIAMOND transported its dessert crew to the Manansala at Rockwell Center for the haute-couture dessert event.

Simply delicious homecooking

From page D1

who popularized it in San Fernando, Pampanga)

For bed-weather days, try soup dishes "Mapang Sabo," Sinugang na Babi (P190), Sinugang na Ulo ng Salmon sa Miso (P170), Sinugang na Suppo sa Camias (P265) together with Mangan's house specialties.

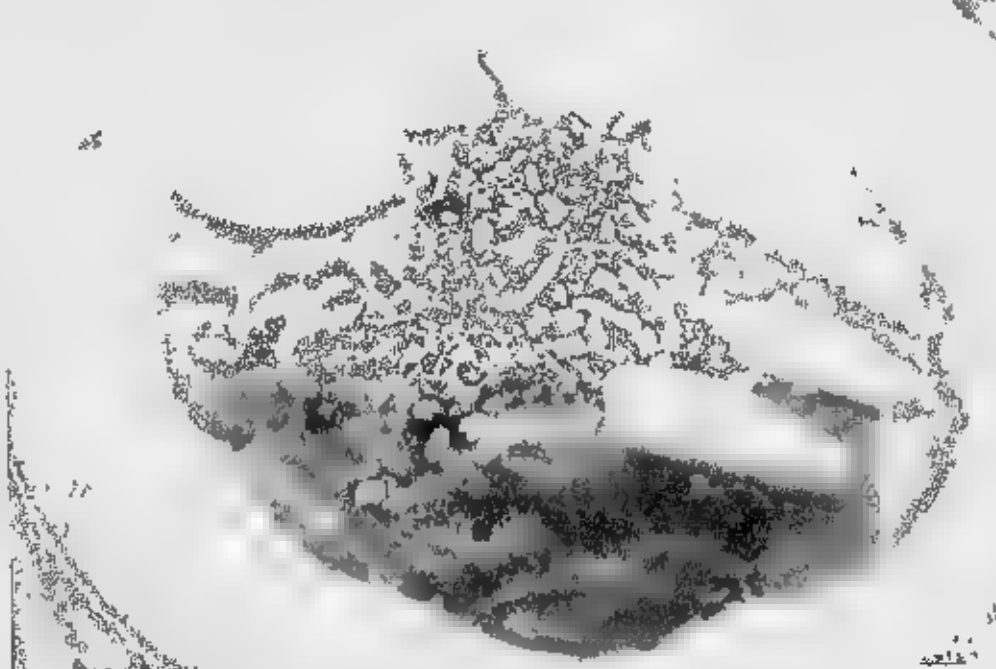
Pritong Paborito is a delightful concoction of Pritong Manok, Lumpiang Bangus, Lechon Kawaii, Garlic Pugo, Pritong Tilapia, Pritong Biya and a variety of sawsawan (sauces).

Inihaw Pyesta, Mangan's bestseller, is sure to satisfy with its inihaw na Liempo, Chicken BBQ, Alabos na Hipon, Inihaw na Bangus, Inihaw na Talong with Burong Hipon (a must to all Kapampangan steamed vegetables), Inihaw na Tahong, Dahon ng Mustasa (Mustasa leaves), and their complement sawsawan.

After a satisfying meal, what better way to slow down but by ordering Napapana-hong Prutas—a variety of fruits in season served on a platter.

Mangan's source of pride is the culinary expertise of its chef. With Maritel Neviera-Shani at the helm, food lovers are assured that only the best Kapampangan dishes are served in all branches.

Mangan will open a branch soon at SM Mall of Asia. Call Mangan Robinsons



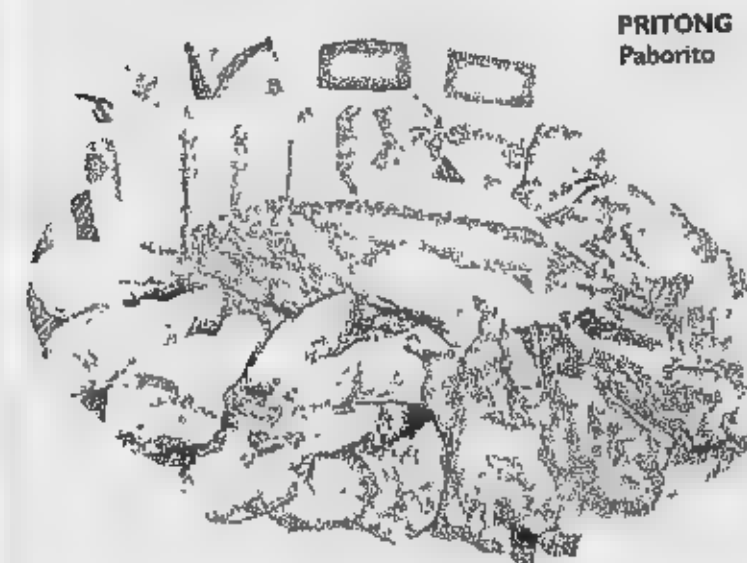
SEAFOOD Pancit Luglug

DAING na Bangus

Place Manila (4004784, 4006293), Glorietta 1 (8123843, 8939798), Robinsons Galleria (6361120, 6874459), SM City North Edsa (9286308, 9286659), SM City Pampanga (045-9639294 to 95) and Trinoma (9167790, 9166395).



BIBINGKA with salted egg and queso ng puti



PRITONG Paborito

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2791, Series of 2007

Up Dharma, up!

THE BUZZ ON UP DHARMA DOWN as one of the most interesting bands in the city has caught global attention.

A recent story on the Time Magazine-CNN website, titled "The Way of Dharma," noted that the group—vocalist and keyboard player Armi Millare, 23; guitarist Carlos Tañada, 25; bassist Paul Yap, 25; and drummer Ean Mayor, 23—stands out from among local bands and deserves to be heard around the world.

The story read in part: "Head out most nights in Metro Manila, and you'll be spoiled for original live sound, be it R&B, indie pop, electro-fusion or punk. In a scene this vibrant, it's hard for any act to rise above the clamor. But Up Dharma Down might just be doing so. Beloved air-punching fans and chin-stroking critics alike, this genre-defying quartet was pegged by BBC radio DJ Mark Coles last year as the Manila band most likely to cross over to the lucrative Anglophone market of North America. Its internationally viable sound shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone who knows the environment it sprang from."

Millare and the band's manager/record label boss, Toti Dalmacion, sounded nonchalant when asked how UDD developed its music.

"The Philippines is used to following



global music trends," Dalmacion said. "RP bands sprout out of all [kinds of] genres."

Millare explained: "We can balance and combine various influences. We'd get bored if we got stuck within a certain style."

UP DHARMA DOWN: "Genre-defying."

ROMY HOMILADA

No diva in her blog site

CHECKING OUT MY FRIENDS' multiply.com sites is the highlight of my mornings. Before getting lost in the daily shuffle (or shuffling with the lost?), it feels good to touch base with friends and see what they're up to.

I particularly enjoy going through the site of Zsazsa Padilla, which she calls "In This Corner." There she sheds her diva image and even gameily posts her bagong gising pix. Zsa allowed me to share with you her latest blog entry (Sept. 3): "Give in, hold back." I'm sure a lot of women can relate to it as they also deal with the diet tug of war.

Confused

"I am confused. My brain, mouth and stomach are in

connivance. They're out to get me. My brain is the only one making sense but I get mixed signals. It keeps saying, 'Give in... eat! You are PMSing and you have to satisfy your needs.'

"When I look in the mirror and see my image and how my hips have grown, it then says, 'Hold back... have some sense,

DOLLY WOOD



Dolly Anne Carvajal

NO DIVA/E2

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FEEDBACK

Gossip shows offend

From: Pepe Sanchez
(jos_357@ya-hoo.com), address withheld upon request:

May we request the two big TV stations, ABS-CBN and GMA 7, to please move their gossip shows to time slots that don't disturb people taking siesta during the weekends?

How about 10 a.m. or 5 p.m.?

Granted, these shows are big business, and their high ratings probably justify the blatant desecration of God's day for the sole purpose of feeding audiences with all that show biz trash. Please, can you just move these sinful programs so that people like us who need the weekend to recharge can get respite from our neighbors' offensively loud TV sets?

And since when, may we ask, has gossiping been stricken off the list of sins?

May we also request the MTRCB and the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines to please, please, step into this runaway frenzy and save the populace before it's too late?

OPENS SEPT. 12

ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?



LINDSAY LOHAN

I KNOW WHO KILLED ME



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THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANGHAI CINEPLEX 1st floor: NANCY DREW 2nd floor: DISTURBIA 3rd floor: NANCY DREW 4th floor: DAY WATCH PREMIERE EVAN ALMIGHTY CINEMA 2000 Cinema 2000 Watermark Makati Watermark Center, Chino Rocas Ave., cor. Antonio Aranda Pda del Pinar, Makati City Tel 816-4214 / 816-4216 1 THE INVASION 2 DISTURBIA 3 NANCY DREW 4 SKINWALKERS starmall (Mandaluyong) Tel. 724-1100 3 LAST LEGION 4 SKINWALKERS 5 RESERVED metropolis star cinema www.digitallife.com.ph (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100, 881-1104 1 A LOVE STORY 2 DISTURBIA 3 DAY WATCH 4 SKINWALKERS THEATRES 1 EVAN ALMIGHTY 2 MY KUYAS WEDDING 3 PLANET TERROR PACIFIC MALL CINEMAGIC (Makati) Tel. 881-1100 1 MY KUYAS WEDDING 2 EVAN ALMIGHTY 3 RESERVED 4 RESERVED Filinvest (Muntinlupa) Tel. 881-1100 1 1400 2 SKINWALKERS 3 DAY WATCH 4 THE INVASION 5 NANCY DREW 6 EVAN ALMIGHTY 7 DISTURBIA 8 MY KUYAS WEDDING 9 A LOVE STORY 10 CHOPSUEY Blue Wave (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 1 CHOPSUEY 2 DISTURBIA 3 NANCY DREW 4 PLEASE CALL SUPER CINERAMA (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 1 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 3 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION 4 MY KUYAS WEDDING 5 DAY WATCH MARKETPLACE (Mandaluyong) Tel. 881-1100 1 RUSH HOUR - 3 2 EVAN ALMIGHTY 3 A LOVE STORY 4 DON'T LOOK BACK	Masagana CINEMA (Pasig) Tel. 881-1100 / 881-1104 1 SKINWALKERS 2 DISTURBIA 3 MY KUYAS WEDDING Center Mall Cinema (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 / 881-1104 1 RUSH HOUR - 3 2 PLANET TERROR Jade Cinema (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 / 881-1104 1 RISE 2 MY KUYAS WEDDING 3 SINKING JAPAN 4 THREE Centre Plaza Cinema (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 / 881-1104 1 RUSH HOUR - 3 2 MY KUYAS WEDDING Eastwood City (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 / 881-1104 1 DAY WATCH 2 DISTURBIA 3 NANCY DREW 4 INVASION Eastwood City (Alabang) Tel. 881-1100 / 881-1104 1 DAY WATCH 2 DISTURBIA 3 NANCY DREW 4 INVASION
--	--

No diva in her blog site

woman, and go on a diet... you ***!! It can get pretty abusive and downright mean. Seriously now, I have a photo shoot in two

weeks and I have to be professional about this whole thing. Brain says... diet wins! "So, in the next two weeks, I

can envision a slimmer but nastier me. Being deprived of food is no fun. But we do it because it's part of the job. So many haters out there. And sadly enough, they always target the physical. They make nasty comments like she's too fat, too thin, too ugly, trying too hard... it just goes on and on.

"The upside? Good uplifting comments. I guess you all know by now that most artists suffer from low-self esteem. The culprit? Being a people-pleaser. Applause and approval from fans sustain us. Need I say more?"

Merry Marian

I teased Marian Rivera: "Now that you've made it big as Marian, I'm sure Mark Herras regrets letting you slip away?"

Their romance got thwarted because Marian found out that Mark was still in love with Jennylyn Mercado at that time. She flipped her hair and pouted. "Ewan ko kay Mark (laughter)!"

I could sense some sarcasm in her tone. But all that is behind her now. If Mark has any plans of trying to win Marian back, he'd have to queue up and wait for her cue.



Eastwood City
 proudly presents
The Members
 Journey back in time as we take you on a musical ride, from the 60's all the way to the 80's

Watch The Members pay tribute to those rock icons & bands: Jimi Hendrix, Led Zepplin, The Cure, The Doors, The Rolling Stones, The Smiths, The Shadows, The Ventures

Every Thursday, 8:00 PM
Eastwood Fuente Circle

Eastwood City
 881-1100 / 881-1104

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 DIGITAL SURROUND-5.1

Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
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In recent Eastwood City Events, Eastwood City Cinema has been the most popular and most successful in the Philippines.

687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
 MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

DAY WATCH	12:00, 2:30, 5:25, 8:20, 11:10
R-18	
DISTURBIA	1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00
PG-13	
NANCY DREW	1:00, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50
G	
INVASION	3:20, 6:10
PG-13	
1408	1:00, 5:45, 10:40
PG-13	

Every killer lives next door to someone

disturbia

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

NOW SHOWING

MTRCB R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP

THE BATTLE AMONG MEN AND BEASTS

FROM STAN WINSTON STUDIO

THE FX TEAM THAT GAVE YOU "TERMINATOR 3" & "WAR OF THE WORLDS"

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in cooperation with MAKE UP FOR EVER

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923 JOEY

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San Rockwell Vera Farniga

joshua

Not all children are innocent.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted (R-13)

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September 4 The Adventures of Prince Achmed
 Music by Drip

September 10 The Sixth Sense
 Music by Waijuna

September 12 The Monster Squad
 Music by Marilou Escobedo

Greenbelt 3 Cinema 2, 8PM

Tickets selling starts by 4PM

Araneta Center aranetacenter.net

Gateway Mall gatewaymall.com.ph

Farmers Plaza

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GateWay Cineplex 10

DISTURBIA 12:30 / 3:05 / 5:20 / 7:35 / 9:50	NANCY DREW 12:30 / 2:30 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	DAY WATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20
LAST LEGION 2:35 / 5:15 / 7:55 / 10:35	SKINWALKERS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	CHOPSUEY 12:20 / 2:40 / 5:00 / 7:20 / 9:40
THE INVASION 1:10 / 5:30 / 9:50	WAITRESS 1:50 / 4:20 / 7:10 / 9:50	EVAN ALMIGHTY 3:20 / 7:40
	A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	NANCY DREW 2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00

ANIMALL 5

1 DISTURBIA 11:40 / 1:55 / 4:10 / 6:25 / 8:40	2 A LOVE STORY 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20	3 NANCY DREW 1:05 / 3:25 / 5:45 / 8:05
4 CHOPSUEY 12:10 / 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30	5 SKINWALKERS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45	

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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www.aranetacoliseum.com

UAAP BASKETBALL GAMES
 Sep 8 Saturday 2pm UE vs UP 4pm NU vs FEU
 Sep 9 Sunday 2pm UST vs AdU 4pm ADMU vs DLSU

FALL OUT BOY CONCERT
 September 20 & 21 8pm



RIAN RIVERA

ZSAZSA PADILLA

No stopping Angel

Angel Locsin left for Hong Kong Tuesday to shoot another TV ad there. She just finished her acting workshop

and is raring to start her project with Piolo Pascual. No amount of cloudy intrigue-laden days can ever stop Angel's flying higher and higher.

Guess list

•Guess who this TV host is. She signed up as image model for the rival company of the establishment she used to endorse even if her contract hadn't lapsed. There were some legal impediments but the owner of the company just let her go. Endorsers like her are more incredible than credible because her reason for suddenly shifting from one company to another is so preposterous!

•Guess who this actor is. During a night out with a gay actor, their friends dared them to kiss and they gamely did. The actor's gender has always been in ques-

tion. After that night, all doubts were confirmed. Is his closet queen phase finally closed?

New newscast

UNTV 37's "Ito Ang Balita" (M-F 6-7 p.m.) is committed to delivering impartial reporting of the day's events. It is anchored by two respected broadcasters in the industry—Jay Sonza and Candice Giron. Segments include Business Sense, Sports Discipline and Police Blotter. Is Jay out to dislodge the newscast of his ex, Mel Tiangco ("24 Oras")?

I remember when Tito Jay told me the story behind the story of his split-up with Tita Mel. Suffice it to say that he's too much of a gentleman; that's why he just let Tita Mel do the talking when their breakup was hot news. It's up to the viewers to read between the (head)lines.

Personal

Kudos to my dear "V Sister"

Ces Drilon for the well-deserved Emmy nomination of "Bandila." A first for the country! That makes the Philippine bandila wave so proudly.

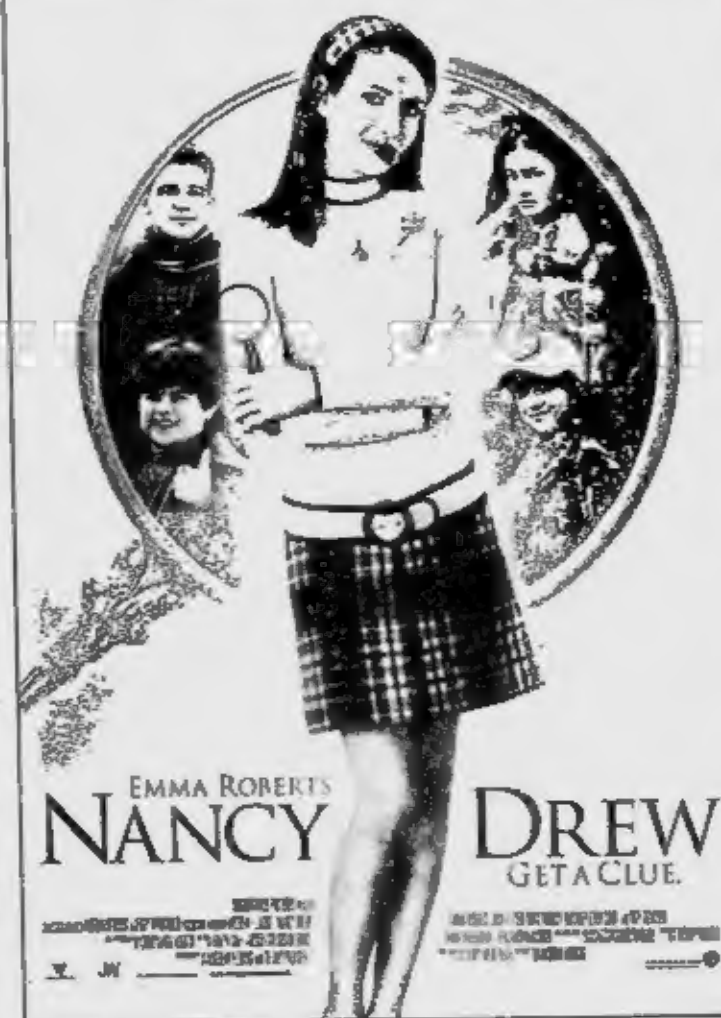
Belated birthday greetings to my friends from Bohol—Libby Sumampog, Kim Ellison Dungog and Oting Acuna.

E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.

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THEATRE-MALL
a landmark renovation!

NOW SHOWING

1 **SKIN WALKERS**
MTRCB: GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

2 **THE INVASION**
MTRCB: PG-13 11:50, 2:05, 4:20, 6:35, 8:50, 10:30

PROMENADE
a destination for all!

NOW SHOWING

3 **DAY WATCH**
MTRCB: R-13 11:50, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:30

4 **DISTURBIA**
MTRCB: PG-13 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50

5 **NANCY DREW**
MTRCB: GP 10:40, 12:55, 3:10, 5:25, 7:40, 10:00

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722-4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
September 22, 2007	Jeff Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 6 & 13, 2007	"Alamat" Storyplay	8:00 PM

THEATRE-MALL

Sept. 7, 21, 28, 2007	Drug - Ona	10:00 PM
Sept. 5, 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrado Classico	8:00 PM

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 **NANCY DREW**
MTRCB: GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

2 **DISTURBIA**
MTRCB: PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00

3 **NANCY DREW**
MTRCB: GP 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30

4 **DAY WATCH**
MTRCB: R-13 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE
EVAN ALMIGHTY (GP) 1:20, 3:30
HAIRSPRAY (GP) 5:00, 8:30

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

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for more details.

Shangri-La Plaza

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 896-1440/41

1408 PG13
1:40, 3:50, 6:00
EVAN ALMIGHTY
G
8:10, 10:20

DAY WATCH
R13
12:00, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30

NANCY DREW
G
1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10

THE INVASION
PG13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00

SKIN WALKERS
R18
1:40, 3:50, 6:00, 8:10, 10:20

DISTURBIA
PG13
12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 10:20

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

AT THE CINEMAS				
Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS 683 or SURESEATS 64 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for with more options. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777				
GLORIETTA 1	1 CHOPSUEY	2 DISTURBIA	3 NANCY DREW	4 A LOVE STORY
GLORIETTA 4	1 DAYWATCH	2 SKINWALKERS	3 DISTURBIA	1408
GREENBELT 1	1 DAYWATCH	2 NANCY DREW		
GREENBELT 3	1 NANCY DREW	2 DISTURBIA		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 DISTURBIA	2 NANCY DREW		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 PAN'S LABYRINTH	2 PLANET TERROR	3 RISE	4 THE INVASION
MARKET! MARKET!	1 CHOPSUEY	2 SKINWALKERS		
TRINOMA	1 EVAN ALMIGHTY	2 SKINWALKERS	3 DAYWATCH	4 NANCY DREW
	5 CHOPSUEY	6 1408	7 DISTURBIA	

AT THE MALLS

CONCERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1960
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7619
TriNoma - 901 3000

glorietta
Philippine Daily Inquirer's Job Fair
September 3 to 5, 2007 at the Activity Center

GREENBELT
Sounds of Greenbelt featuring: Bloomfields
September 6, 2007 at the Greenbelt 3 Park

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Anson's Exhibit
September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center

AYALA CENTER CEBU
Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live!
September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)

MARKET! MARKET!
Lactum Mall Show
September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center

Onstage
Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids
at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM
Antiquenos: Homage to my Kasinawas
August 28 to September 10, 2007
For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org

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MTRCB Rating: General Audiences (G)

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ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE



www.robinsonsmovieworld.com

MOVIES/SCHEDULES/PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GALLERIA		Ticket Price THX: P160 130 Indie Sine: 100 832-9116
1 THE INVASION • THX	6 NANCY DREW	
2 DISTURBIA	7 THE LAST LEGION EVAN ALMIGHTY	
3 indieSine: TRIBU	8 1408	
4 DAYWATCH	9 A LOVE STORY	
5 SKINWALKERS	10 CHOPSEUY	
ERMITA		Ticket Price: P110/P120
1 SKINWALKERS	5 NANCY DREW	
2 A LOVE STORY	6 DAY WATCH	
3 DISTURBIA	7 CHOPSEUY	
4 1408		

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METRO EAST	
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY THE LAST LEGION	5 CHOPSEUY
2 DISTURBIA	6 THE INVASION
3 SKINWALKERS	7 1408
4 NANCY DREW	8 A LOVE STORY
NOVALICHES	
1 DISTURBIA	3 A LOVE STORY
2 NANCY DREW	4 CHOPSEUY
PIONEER	
1 NANCY DREW	3 SKINWALKERS
2 DAY WATCH	4 DISTURBIA
STA. ROSA	
1 1408	1 RISE
2 CASA	2 RUSH HOUR 3
3 THREE	3 A LOVE STORY
4 THE INVASION	4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
DASMARINAS	
1 THE INVASION	1 1408
2 1408	2 A LOVE STORY
3 THREE	3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 SINKING of JAPAN	4 THREE
ANGELES	
1 RISE	1 A LOVE STORY
2 SINKING of JAPAN	2 LICENSE to WED
3 CASA	3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 THREE	
STARMILLS	
1 RISE	4 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 SINKING of JAPAN	5 1408
3 A LOVE STORY	6 RUSH HOUR 3
BAGUIO	
1 DON'T LOOK BACK	1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 BLIND DATING	2 THE INVASION
3 A LOVE STORY	3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 THREE	4 A LOVE STORY
5 BORDERTOWN	5 HAIRSPRAY
6 CASA	6 CASA
ILOILO	
1 DON'T LOOK BACK	1 DON'T LOOK BACK
2 THE INVASION	2 THE INVASION
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING	3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 A LOVE STORY	4 A LOVE STORY
5 HAIRSPRAY	5 HAIRSPRAY
6 CASA	6 CASA

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E4

ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

DID
YOU
KNOW...

'Foster Child' cinema run

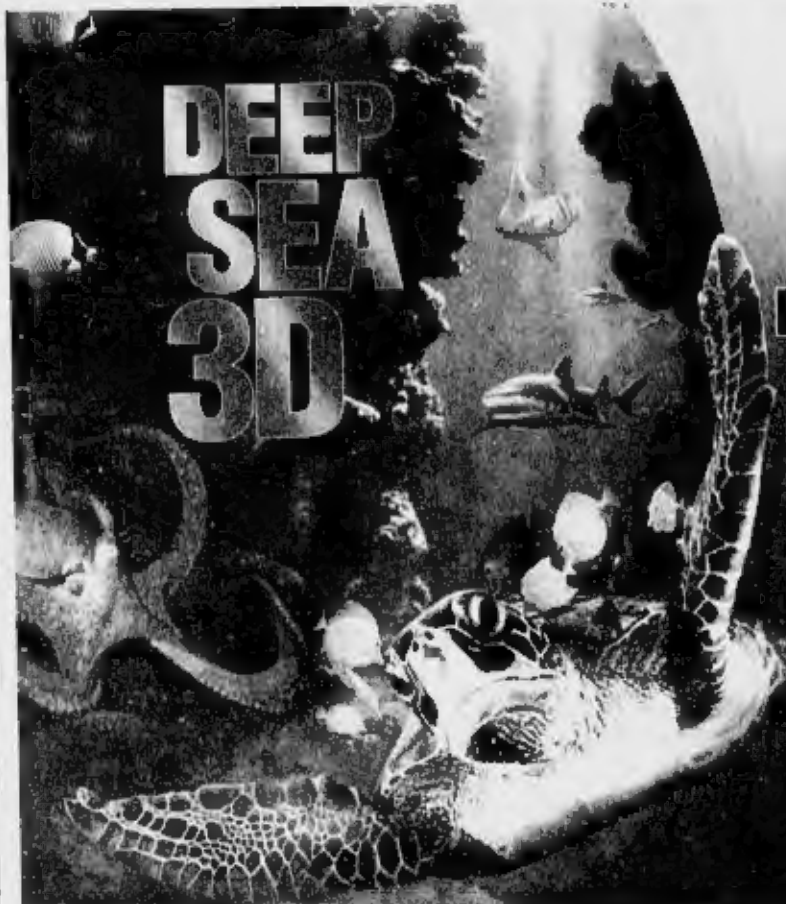
BRILLANTE MENDOZA'S "FOSTER CHILD," WHICH PREMIERED AT THE LAST CANNES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL, OPENS IN LOCAL CINEMAS ON SEPT. 12. CAST AS PARENT-FOR-HIRE IS CHERRY PIE PICACHE, WHO WAS NAMED BEST ACTRESS AT THE 9TH ASIAN CINEFAN INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL IN INDIA FOR SAID ROLE. MENDOZA SAYS HE FEELS A PERSONAL AFFINITY WITH THE MOVIE, "BEING AN ADOPTIVE FATHER MYSELF TO A LITTLE GIRL WHO [HAS] BROUGHT SUNSHINE TO MY SOMEWHAT DREARY EXISTENCE."



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METRO MANILA	
SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104 IMAX DEEP SEA 3D Admission Price: P250 12:00 AM • 1:30 PM • 6:00 PM • 7:30 PM • 9:00 PM HARRY POTTER Admission Price: 3:00 PM P350 • P400	SM MEGADINEMA 833-1901 1 DAY WATCH 2 NANCY DREW 3 1408 4 DISTURBIA 5 EVAN ALMIGHTY 6 SKINWALKERS 7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 8 INVASION 9 CHOPSEUY 10 A LOVE STORY 11 RUSH HOUR 3 12 GANDHI, MY FATHER
SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749 1 INVASION 2 NANCY DREW 3 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 4 SKINWALKERS 5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 6 LAST LEGION 7 1408 8 A LOVE STORY 9 EVAN ALMIGHTY 10 RUSH HOUR 3 11 DISTURBIA 12 CHOPSEUY	SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416 1 DISTURBIA 2 1408 3 NANCY DREW 4 SKINWALKERS 5 A LOVE STORY 6 EVAN ALMIGHTY 7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 8 CHOPSEUY 9 RUSH HOUR 3 10 LAST LEGION 11 A LOVE STORY 12 BOURNE ULTIMATUM
SM CITY CLARK (045) 825-5844-45 1 1408 2 RUSH HOUR 3 3 RISE 4 A LOVE STORY 5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 6 SINKING OF JAPAN 7 LICENSE TO WED 8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 9 A LOVE STORY 10 RISE	SM CITY BICUTAN 776-3055 1 DISTURBIA 2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 3 1408 4 SKINWALKERS 5 SM CITY MANILA 523-9240 6 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 7 DISTURBIA 8 CHOPSEUY 9 1408 10 NANCY DREW 11 SKINWALKERS 12 RUSH HOUR 3 13 LAST LEGION 14 A LOVE STORY 15 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 16 DAY WATCH 17 EVAN ALMIGHTY
SM CITY DAVAO (062) 2876988 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 PLANET TERROR 3 A LOVE STORY 4 SIGNOS 5 RISE 6 RUSH HOUR 3 7 SM CITY DAVAYAN (088) 859-2854 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 BORDER TOWN 3 SIGNOS 4 EVAN ALMIGHTY	SM CITY DASHMARINAS (048) 4233281-44 1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 2 INVASION 3 BLADES OF GLORY 4 1408 5 SM VALENZUELA 293-3917 6 1408 7 SKINWALKERS 8 INVASION 9 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 10 SM CITY SUCAT 829-4975 11 1408 12 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 13 SKINWALKERS 14 DISTURBIA
SM CITY DAVAO (062) 2876988 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 PLANET TERROR 3 A LOVE STORY 4 SIGNOS 5 RISE 6 RUSH HOUR 3 7 SM CITY DAVAYAN (088) 859-2854 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 BORDER TOWN 3 SIGNOS 4 EVAN ALMIGHTY	SM CITY DASHMARINAS 885-8401-04 1 RISE 2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 3 A LOVE STORY 4 SINKING OF JAPAN 5 SM CITY PAMPANGA (046) 9037681-88 6 RUSH HOUR 3 7 RISE 8 OSS 117 9 1408 10 A LOVE STORY 11 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 12 SM CITY LIPA (043) 784-0187 13 A LOVE STORY 14 HAIRSPRAY 15 EVAN ALMIGHTY 16 RISE
SM CITY DAVAO (062) 2876988 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 PLANET TERROR 3 A LOVE STORY 4 SIGNOS 5 RISE 6 RUSH HOUR 3 7 SM CITY DAVAYAN (088) 859-2854 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 BORDER TOWN 3 SIGNOS 4 EVAN ALMIGHTY	SM CITY LUCENA (042) 7108977-80 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 A LOVE STORY 3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING 4 RUSH HOUR 3 5 SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 6197838-39 6 RUSH HOUR 3 7 1408 8 A LOVE STORY 9 RISE 10 SM COPENHAGEN MOLEND (048) 474-3180 11 DAY WATCH 12 SKINWALKERS 13 DISTURBIA 14 NANCY DREW 15 SM CITY STA. ROSA (048) 8348811 16 A LOVE STORY 17 1408 18 INVASION 19 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
SM CITY DAVAO (062) 2876988 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 PLANET TERROR 3 A LOVE STORY 4 SIGNOS 5 RISE 6 RUSH HOUR 3 7 SM CITY DAVAYAN (088) 859-2854 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 BORDER TOWN 3 SIGNOS 4 EVAN ALMIGHTY	SM CITY CEBU (032) 231-3878 1 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 2 BLIND DATING 3 RISE 4 EVAN ALMIGHTY 5 CHOPSEUY 6 INVASION 7 A LOVE STORY 8 PLANET TERROR 9 SM CITY BAGUIO (074) 708 1010 10 BLADES OF GLORY 11 BOURNE ULTIMATUM 12 A LOVE STORY 13 BORDERTOWN

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MPAA RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA